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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

JUNE 24th, 1976, ISSUE No. 23

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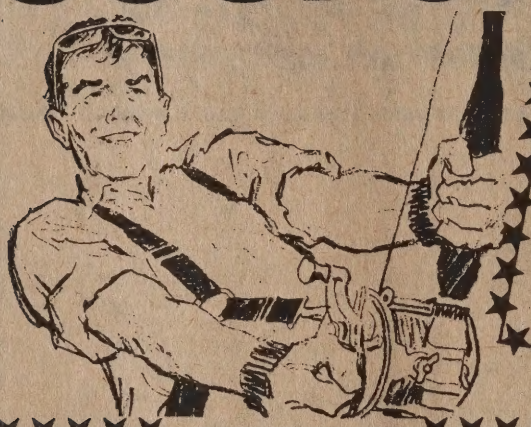

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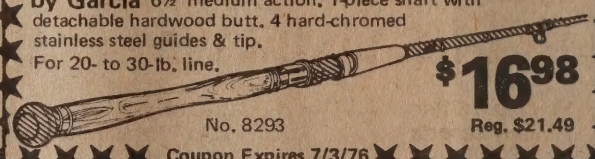

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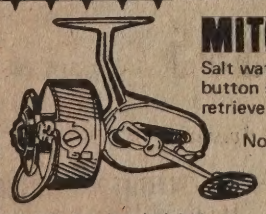

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOLUME 11, No. 23 JUNE 24th, 1976

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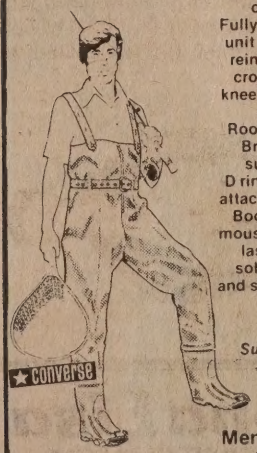

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CLUB NEWS

TACKLE FOR YOUNGSTERS

The Fishing Bugs of Brooklyn is again asking the public to donate old fishing rods, reels, lures etc. that the Fishing Bug's, at it's own expense, can repair & then give, FREE OF CHARGE, to youngsters and teen agers. The club believes that a person interested in fishing has a better chance of staying out of trouble. The Fishing Bugs will pick up the rods and reels to be repaired. Call Sam Ballin, 682-2446 Days or UL 4-5307 evenings. The club would also appreciate help from any fishermen in this worth while project.

ROCK 'N ROLL CLUB'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, May 16th 1976 the Rock and Roll Rod and Gun Club Inc. of the Bronx, celebrated its 20th Anniversary. At the party, plaques were presented to the only 5 charter members who are still active; Ed Ames, Al Boas, Bill Armstrong, Pat McGarity and Al Masocchi.

News Releases

NPBOA PRESIDENT NOMINATED BY CAREY

Capt. John Curry, President of the National Party Boat Owners Alliance has been nominated by Gov. Carey to the Fisheries Management Council for the 200-Mile Limit.

MONTAUK MARINE BASIN 5TH ANNUAL SHARK TOURNEY

Entries are now being accepted for the 5th Annual Open Shark Tag Tournament at the Montauk Marine Basin, West Lake Drive, Montauk Long Island Due to the overwhelming response to this event the Marine Basin has been forced to set a limit on registrations; Saturday, July 17th has been set as the last day for entries to be accepted. The tournament is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 24th and 25th. Activities will begin Friday, July 23rd at 9 P.M. with the Captain's meeting. Saturday morning at 5 a.m. a continental breakfast will be served, boats will leave the dock beginning at 6 a.m. and returning by 6 p.m. Sunday's schedule is the same except for the boats returning by 5 P.M. in time for the awarding of trophies and prizes.

The annual clambake, bar-be-que and Calypso dance party will be held Saturday, July 24th at 7:30 P.M. at the Montauk Marine Basin dockside. Each boat Captain will receive two clambake tickets upon registration. The clambake and party is open to the public. Tickets are $10 per person. Reservations are urged as tickets are limited.

The Montauk Marine Basin Shark Tag Tournament will again emphasize the tagging and release of sharks in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service during the 1976 tournament. In an effort to avoid any last minute confusion in distributing tags, we are attempting to provide participants with tags and instructions prior to the tournament. If you are interested in participating in the tagging program, it will be necessary to complete and mail a shark program registration form directly to Jack Casey, biologist and director of the shark research program at the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory, Narragansett, Rhode Island. The shark program registration form and the shark tournament entry form will be available at the Montauk Marine Basin tournament office.

The entry fee for the 1976 Annual Open Shark Tag Tournament is $100 per boat. Charter boats are also available for those who act now.

Reguests for entry forms and shark program registration forms are being accepted at the Montauk Marine Basin, West Lake Drive, Montauk. 516-668-5900.

1976 MAY CONTEST WINNERS IN STATE PARK FISHING CONTEST

From the surf and bank: 1st to John Guaglianone of Little Neck for his weakfish of 10 pounds 7 ounces which he took at Captree and received 31 5/16 points for; 2nd to John Kane, Jr. of Flushing for his striped bass of 30 pounds 5 ounces which he took at Jones Beach and received 30 5/16 points for and 3rd to Peter Hoo of Manhattan for his blackfish of 9 pounds which to took at Oak Beach and received 27 points for.

From the pier: 1st to Mike Tornabene for his blackfish of 10 pounds 4 ounces which he took at Robert Moses and received 32 10/16 pts. for; 2nd to Edward LaBarbara for his blackfish of 7 pounds 12 ounces which he took at Robert Moses and received 23 4/16 pts. for and 3rd to John Bockelken of Bayside for his blackfish of 7 pounds 8 ounces that he took at Robert Moses also and received 22 8/16 pts. for.

From the boat: 1st to Berthana Shimer of Manhatten for a fluke of 9 pounds 13 ounces taken off the Capt. Litwin and received 29 7/16 pts. for; 2nd to Bill Ludwig of Chester for his weakfish of 9 pounds taken off the Capt. Roman and received 27 pts. for; and 3rd to Judith Hartman of Babylon for her bluefish of 8 pounds 3 ounces taken off the Capt. Gillen and received 24 9/16 pts. for.

Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

New England Turkey
Fillet de Sole, Marguéry
Citrus Baked Fish Fillets

New England Turkey

Here's a new one for you—fashioned no less from a codfish! Clean and split a whole cod and stuff it with your favorite bread stuffing. Sew it up or secure it with toothpicks and string. Arrange in an oiled baking dish in an S-shaped design.

Cover with strips of salt pork from head to tail and bake at 425 degrees. Bake for 10 minutes for each inch measured through the thickest part of the fish. While baking, baste often with the pan juices. Remove to a hot platter, garnish with plain boiled potatoes and green peas, and serve with an egg or parsley sauce.

Sauce Poulette

1 cup white sauce
2 egg yolks
juice of ½ lemon
Chopped parsley

Make a basic white sauce (milk, flour and butter), add egg yolks and blend well with a wooden spoon or whisk. Season with lemon juice and parsley. Be careful not to let the egg sauce boil after the egg yolks are added.

Fillet de Sole, Marguery

If you really want to "put on the dog", so to speak, and really impress the King and Queen when they visit your domicile, or, if you would just like to taste a bit of heaven while you are still earth-bound, or just in case you are sort of dis-gruntled with the usual and want to savor a gourmet's delight, treat yourself to the following dish. Just to read the recipe should bring saliva to your mouth and set you drooling.

8 fillets of fluke or flounder
1 small lobster, boiled
18 littleneck clams or shrimps
salt
paprika
½ cup white wine (preferably Chablis)
3 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
pepper
4 tablespoons grated Parmesan Cheese

Cover the bones and all the trimmings of the fish, lobster shell and 6 clams with water (cold water). Simmer until the liquid is reduced to make 1 cup of fish stock.

Place the fillets in shallow buttered baking pan. Sprinkle with salt and paprika. Pour the white wine over the fillets. Cover with some buttered paper and bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees F.

Melt in the butter, stir in the flour and then add the fish stock slowly. Bring to a boiling point and then add ¼ cup of the liquid from the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Strain.

Arrange fillets on oven-proof platter. Pour the sauce over the fish and garnish with slices of lobster meat and remaining clams. Sprinkle with the cheese. Bake until thoroughly heated. (Serves 6 or 8 persons.)

Citrus Baked Fish Fillets

Whoever heard of eating fish cooked with grapefruit and oranges? I never had until I came across this recipe. Having a curious kind of mind—especially when it comes to food, I tried it and it is good plus being delicious and different. It originated with General Foods.

1 medium grapefruit sectioned
1 medium orange, sectioned
2 tablespoons oleo or butter, melted
1 pound flounder or fluke fillets
¼ teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper
Dash of paprika
1 package, 10 oz., frozen Danish style vegetables with seasoned sauce.

Drain the grapefruit and orange sections, reserving 2 tablespoons of the juice. Combine melted butter and reserved juice; pour over fish in shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Bake at 375 degrees F for 30 minutes, basting several times. Remove from oven, arrange grapefruit and orange sections around fish and bake 10 minutes longer or until the fish is easily flaked with a fork. Meanwhile, prepare vegetables as directed on package; serve with the fish. Garnish fish with paprika and dill weed or chopped parsley, if desired. Makes 6 servings; to serve six, double the recipe.

To those of you who have been following this column know that once in a while I depart from the norm—i.e., recipes about fish, to one for a really tasty dessert. The following recipe is just that!

Bacardi Rum Cake

1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
1 18½ oz. package yellow cake mix
1 3-3¾ oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding mix.
4 eggs
½ cup cold water
½ cup Wesson oil
½ cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

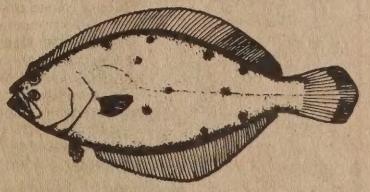
(for the glaze)

¼ cup butter
¼ cup water
1 cup granulated sugar
½ cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Grease and flour 10" tube pan. Sprinkle nuts over the bottom of the pan. Mix all cake ingredients together. Pour batter over nuts. Bake for 1 hour. Cool. Invert on serving plate. Prick top. Drizzle and smooth glaze evenly over top and sides. Allow cake to absorb the glaze. Repeat till glaze is used up.

For glaze, melt butter in saucepan. Stir in water and sugar. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and cool. Stir in rum.

OPTIONAL: Decorate with whole maraschino cherries and border of sugar frosting or sweetened whip cream. Serve with seedless green grapes dusted with powdered sugar.



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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Why Do We Do It?

Artie Leidecker is a good friend of mine. He's a codfisherman par excellence and we've been fishing together on and off for fifty years. One day recently, we planned an offshore whiting trip aboard Artie's "Echo", a neat thirty footer in which he pursues fish from one end of Long Island to the other. If there are fish to be caught, Artie never thinks about distance or inconvenience. He just goes. And lots of times, whenever I can, I'm with him.

Unfortunately, our whiting trip never came off. At dawn on the selected day, and just minutes before casting off, an unexpected south wind of near gale force proportions caused us to abandon our plans. I consoled myself with the thought that even if it's tough luck, it's happened before, and it will happen again. Tomorrow, I said to Artie, is another day. Besides, I cheerfully added, the fish always bite better after a blow from the south.

We sat in the chilly cabin sipping hot coffee, each deep in his own thoughts, both indulging in the unspoken camaraderie enjoyed by friends of long standing.

Artie lay his coffee mug aside and glanced across at me.

"Why do we do it?" he asked.

"Do? Do what?" I inquired. "I haven't done anything."

"Not you personally, Matt. All of us. Why do we old-timers get the urge to teach others how to catch fish, and then feel bad when it's resented?"

I shrugged, "Human nature, I guess. What brought this on? Feeling sorry for yourself?"

"Something like that, I guess. Yesterday I tried to help a guy who wasn't catching a thing while everybody else was loading up. He nearly bit my head off."

"So? That'll teach you to mind your own business."

"But that's not the thing. I only...ahh, the hell with it. Let's pack up and get out of here."

The more I thought about what bothered Artie, the more it began to bother me, and when I got home, it bothered me some more. I knew what he was driving at, of course. A lot of guys I know just don't enjoy being told they're doing something wrong when they're fishing. Can't say I blame them, either. It's a ticklish situation for the one trying to be helpful, and also for the guy receiving the advice. Sometimes, like Artie's experience, things don't work out.

I do believe, though, that no man will ever know all there is to know about fishing. And I also believe that once a fisherman realizes this, he'll be in a more receptive mood to accept advice from other anglers who might just possibly know something he's unaware of. I hope no one thinks I'm a smart aleck for saying that. What I don't know about fishing would fill an ocean, and I'm the first one to admit it.

No matter how well one might think he knows a subject, there's always someone somewhere who knows more. Particularly is this true in the realm of fishing. The smart fisherman always keeps an open mind. He never hesitates to admit he doesn't know. The clever fisherman is always shrewd enough to realize that when he admits to slogging his way along the wide path of ignorance, he's immediately transported to the narrow road of knowledge.

I've been lucky to have gotten some good advice from other fishermen over the years, plus some tips leading to short-cuts that might have taken me years to discover on my own. And by the same token, I've gotten poor advice by well meaning, but inexperienced fishermen. Eventually, the fisherman learns to separate the wheat from the chaff.

I remember one time as a kid doing a little codfishing on the Cholera Banks one January aboard the old Rose R II out of Canarsie. My heart was set on snagging one of the monster cod that were coming aboard with regularity. Most of the passengers had three or four of these big fish, plus several fish each to maybe ten pounds, but I had yet to nail one. A few ling and whiting yes, but no cod. I had sense enough to realize I was doing something wrong; but what? My bait was the same, I was rigged the same as the guys getting the fish. What was wrong?

I could have sought aid from the skipper, Dick Persson, or Matty Horlick, the mate, but I was too full of pride and stubborness to ask for help. And that's where I made my mistake. Truly, pride goes before a fall.

Luckily, I was rescued before I fell too far, by a fellow fisherman who must have been the forefather of Artie Leidecker. Just as I was on the verge of a kid's tears of frustration, he sidled up to me and said: "Who told you you had to jig to catch cod? You just let that line lay still. If you don't get one of those cod with a dead line, I'll give you one of mine."

I well remember my feelings. I was resentful. But I wanted one of those big cod, and I had sense enough to put my stupid pride in my pocket and fish a dead line as I was told.

The first cod I hooked weighed thirty-two pounds, and before the day was over, two more about twelve pounds apiece were brought to gaff. I was more than grateful to my new-found friend, and I offered him his pick of my fish. But he was too much of a man to take advantage of a kid.

As we sat together on the way in, my friend gave me a piece of advice that has brought hundreds of cod over the rail for me. "Sonny," he said, "never jig for cod in January. Jigging works sometimes in the early part of the run—like November and even then I wouldn't put too much faith in it. Cod are spooky. Just remember to keep a dead line and you'll do okay with the cod."

Most all of my fishing information has come this way—through other fishermen with a sincere desire to help their fellow anglers. And that's what Artie Leidecker was trying to do: share his wealth of fishing knowledge with another fisherman. Unfortunately, his efforts weren't appreciated.

Pursuing information written by experienced fishermen always pays off. Fishing has become so popular since World War II that public libraries are chock full of books on the subject, all written by past masters at the game. You'll find none written by non-fishermen. Writing on the subject of sportfishing doesn't lend itself to the pen of the guy who's trying to bluff his way. You've got to know your subject—and know it well. Which is fine for guys like us. One evening with a good book on the subject of your choice is sure to make the reader a better fisherman. If he applies what he has learned, he can't go wrong.

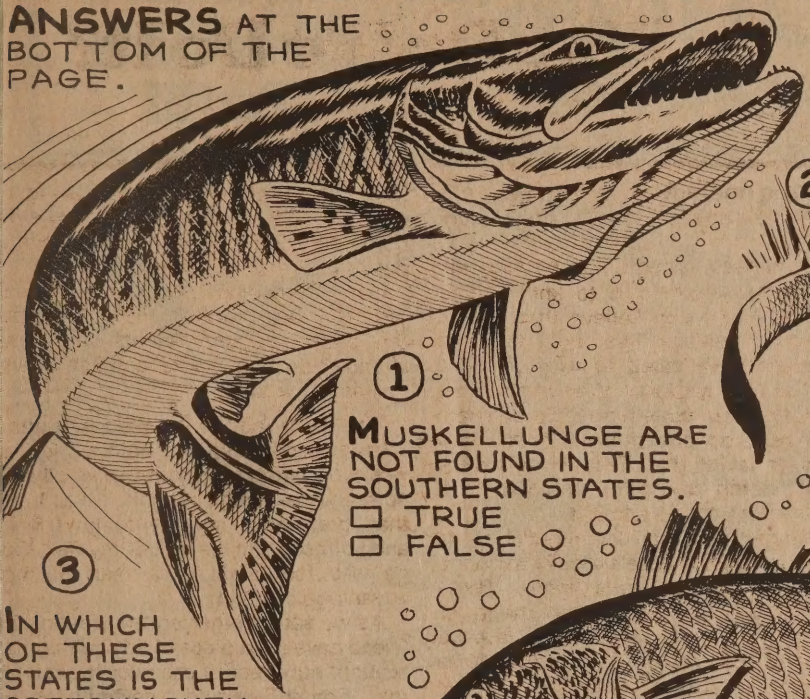
So the next time you're fishing and not doing so hot, and some fisherman comes up to you and says you ought to change your rigging, or bait, or whatever, welcome him with open arms. When he sees you begin to catch fish with the information he's just given you, you are sure to see him smile.

I guess that's why we do it.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

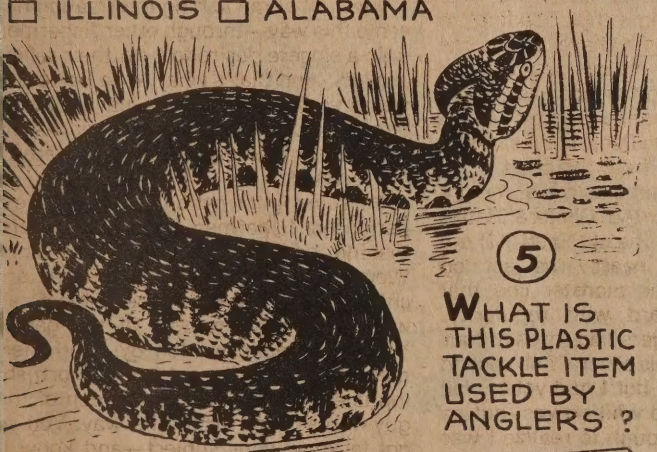


(1) MUSKELLUNGE ARE NOT FOUND IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.
☐ TRUE
☐ FALSE

(2) ITS FLATTENED TAIL IDENTIFIES THIS RODENT AS A:
☐ BEAVER ☐ MUSKRAT
☐ NUTRIA ☐ WOODCHUCK

(3) IN WHICH OF THESE STATES IS THE COTTONMOUTH WATER MOCCASIN SNAKE FOUND?
☐ MISSOURI ☐ IDAHO
☐ NEW YORK ☐ UTAH
☐ VIRGINIA ☐ WEST VIRGINIA
☐ ILLINOIS ☐ ALABAMA

(4) THE LARGEST RED DRUM CHANNEL BASS ARE CAUGHT ON THE
☐ FLORIDA GULF COAST ☐ ATLANTIC COAST.



(5) WHAT IS THIS PLASTIC TACKLE ITEM USED BY ANGLERS?

(6) COCK PHEASANTS MATE WITH ONLY ONE HEN BIRD DURING THE NESTING SEASON.
☐ TRUE
☐ FALSE

1 - FALSE. MUSKIES ARE FOUND IN GEORGIA, TENNESSEE, WEST VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY. 2 - MUSKRAT. 3 - MISSOURI, ILLINOIS AND VIRGINIA. 4 - ATLANTIC COAST. 5 - A HOOK PROTECTOR. SQUEEZING OPENS IT LIKE A PLASTIC COIN PURSE TO CARRY SPOONS, PLUGS OR JIGS. 6 - FALSE. EACH COCK PHEASANT MAINTAINS A FLOCK OF HEN BIRDS FOR REPRODUCTION

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

The Science of Fluke Fishing Part III

Last week in part two of this series we discussed the various types of baitfish (killies, spearing, sand eels, snappers, etc.) that are effective as fluke bait. This week we're going to concentrate on two other effective types of bait—strip baits and whole squid, both of which are extremely effective in the deeper ocean waters where larger fluke predominate.

A strip bait has several advantages over baitfish for catching fluke: they are larger, will stay on the hook through multiple strikes, are in constant supply and as fresh-dead as any bait can be...at little or no expense to the angler! Fresh strip baits will also take fluke throughout their full size range, attracting "shorts" of under fourteen inches just as easily as a doormat of fourteen or more pounds.

How many times have you had a killy or other baitfish bitten off at the gills or removed from the hook entirely without even feeling the bite of the fluke? This problem is almost entirely eliminated when strip baits are used with the tandem hook fluke rig. Because of their size, the fluke is forced to grab the strip bait and hold on because he can't swallow it or tear off a piece with one bite. This gives the angler more time to feel the soft pick-up of the fish and concentrate on when to set the hook. Whereas you usually only have one shot at a striking fish when using the smaller baitfish, strip baits give the angler two, three or even more shots at the fluke, which naturally results in a larger catch.

Considerable money can also be saved by using strip baits. All you really need to buy is one large squid that can be used for "starter" baits until a fish is caught that can be used as a strip bait. Fluke, sea robin, mackerel, bergalls, dogfish—just about any fish that is taken in the same waters you are fishing for fluke in may be cut up and used as an effective strip bait. Let's take a look at how to prepare and rig the various strip baits before we talk about the fishing techniques used to fish them.

FLUKE "BELLY": Long, flat, pennant shaped strip baits cut from the fluke itself is probably the best all-around bait there is for fluke. There must be something absolutely tantalizing about a strip of fluke belly silently gliding over the bottom because fluke of all sizes just can't seem to resist it. Fortunately for the angler, small fluke just above the legal fourteen inch New York State minimum size limit seem to yield the

DIAGRAM 1

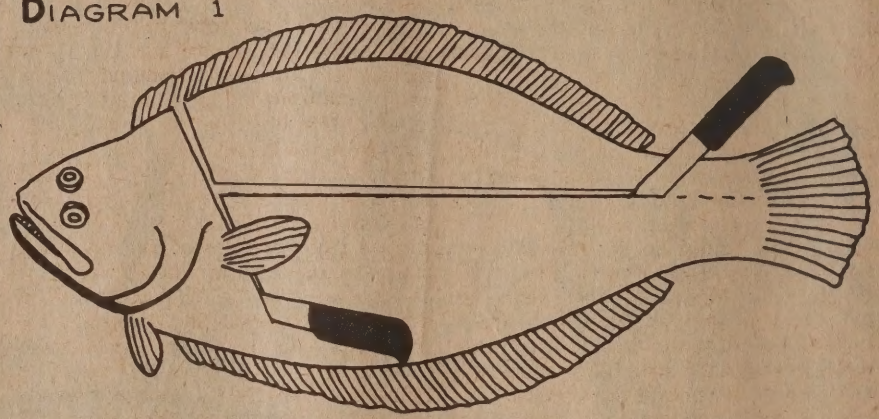
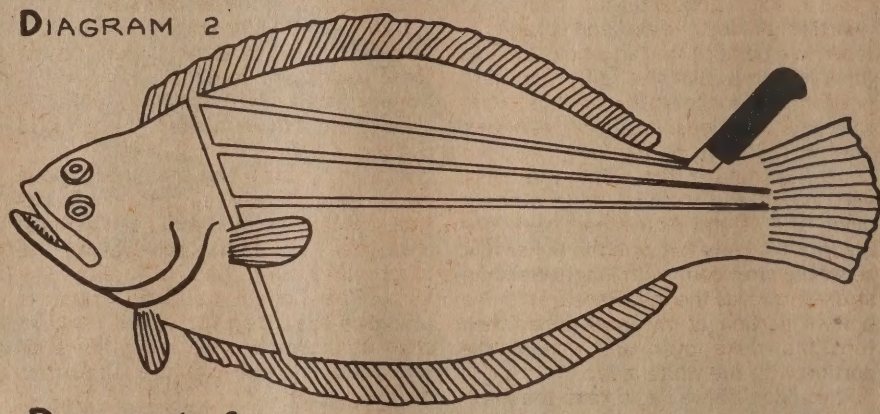


DIAGRAM 2



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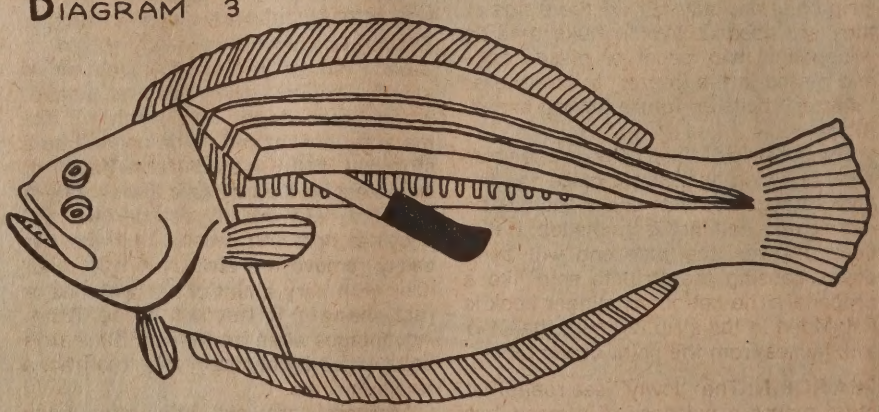
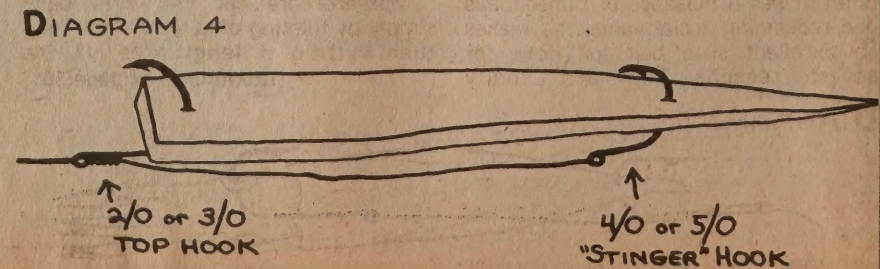


DIAGRAM 4



most effective baits. A fourteen inch fluke will yield at least eight strip baits approximately seven inches long and just the right thickness. Four baits from the white side and four from the dark. While most anglers show a preference for the pretty white side, I always grab the darker strips first ever since I realized that I have taken on unusually high percentage of large fluke and doormats on them, and rarely have taken a fish of over five pounds on the white. No scientific basis, just a simple observation.

If you can do a halfway decent job of filleting a fluke it should be very simple to cut a strip bait from the same as the methods are virtually the same. Start by lying the fish on a flat surface white side down. Using a sharp fillet knife, make a vertical cut down to the bones just behind the pectoral fin as shown in Diagram A, Figure 1. Then make a horizontal cut along the lateral line from the vertical cut to the tail. Now you are ready to shape the strip baits, as shown in figure 2. Starting at the vertical cut, make a second horizontal cut about three quarters of inch wide and gradually taper to a point at the tail when it meets the first horizontal cut. Make a third horizontal cut above the second using the same directions. Figure three shows how the strip baits are removed from the bones. Starting at the point where the vertical cut and the first horizontal cut along the lateral line meet, turn the blade of the knife flat with the bones and sever the strip baits with long, sweeping strokes towards the tail. Repeat with the bottom portion of the dark side, then turn the fluke over and repeat the portion with the white side.

If you don't have ice to keep the fresh strip baits on, only cut off the strips as they are needed. Whole fluke may be wrapped in wax paper or plastic bags and placed in the freezer, to be used as "starter" baits on future fluking expeditions.

Rig the strip of fluke belly on a tandem hook fluke rig as follows: place the top hook through the wide end of the bait no more than a half inch from the top. If it is hooked lower, the wide end will bend down, causing the strip to spin like a propeller. The bottom or stinger hook is imbedded in the strip no more than 1½ to 2 inches from the point of the taper.

SEA ROBIN: The "lowly" sea robin that often makes a nuisance of himself has one redeeming social value...he makes an excellent strip bait for fluke for several reasons. They are usually abundant and inhabit the same waters where fluke are often found, so supply usually isn't any problem. But most importantly, the sea robin's unusually tough skin makes it all but impossible to be stolen by a fluke. The one drawback of using the "B-29" is that unless they are very large, the strip baits they will yield are somwhat thick and stubby and don't have as much "flutter" as fluke belly.

To prepare a sea robin to use as bait, just lie the fish on its side on a flat surface. Lift the pectoral fin and make a vertical cut from the top of the fish next to the dorsal fin down to the stomach. Then place the blade of the fillet knife in this cut, turn it flat, and slice off the side with a long, sweeping stroke towards the tail. Now lie the fillet skin-down on a flat surface. Notice the row of bones running down the center of the meat? Using them as a guide, slice the meat down to the skin with a long sweeping stroke. To cut through the skin you may have to make several sweeping strokes because of its toughness. Turn the fish over and repeat the process with the second side so that you end up with four strip baits. Do NOT remove the skin as some anglers do for some unknown reason(s). As we've already noted, the tough skin makes it difficult for a fluke to steal the bait and nothing is gained by removing it.

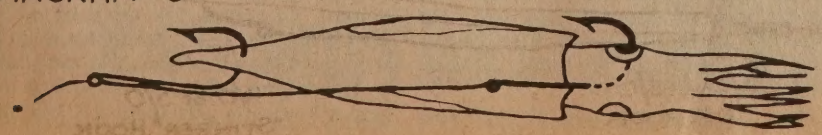
A sea robin strip bait should be rigged on the tandem hook by putting the top hook through the wide end, no more than a quarter-inch down, penetrating the tough skin FIRST, then out through the flesh. The bottom "stinger" hook is placed no more than 1½ inches from the point of the taper. Sea robin fillets or whole fish may be wrapped andfrozen for future bait.

MACKEREL: Great! Super! Terrific! But only when fresh-dead, which is usually almost impossible to obtain in July or August. The reason is simple: when fresh-dead, the flesh of the mackerel is firm and holds up well as a strip bait. But if a mackerel is frozen or even kept on ice for more than a day or two, the flesh quickly deteriorates and becomes soft and mushy...a fluke can easily remove the strip bait from your hook with nary a hint of his presence or just mangle it beyond recognition. Advantages when fresh: long, huge strip baits with a lot of smelly oils to attract a foraging fluke.

Mackerel are cut into strip baits simply by filleting off a side of the fish, then cutting it lengthwise. If the

continued on page 50.)

DIAGRAM 5



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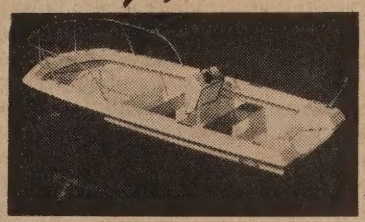

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Surf Side with Doc Muller

Summer Fluke Fishing At Shagwong Part I

Last year fluking from Gin Beach to Shagwong Point busted open early. Rich Reina and Scott Simons turned to the sandy bottom near Shagwong for relief from heavy southeast seas which made fishing from a boat in the big rips impossible.

There was great weakfishing in late June at Shagwong so instead of using bait they broke open to light spinning outfits, and bucktails, and pink Jig-n-Tails. To their surprise they caught fluke and plenty of them.

Inspired by this tale, it occured to me that fooling fluke with moving artificials from the surf would be a lot more fun than sticking a baited rod in a sandspike. Or even for that matter, dragging squid strips over the bottom. I was reminded of evenings a decade ago when we took fluke from the beach on white bucktails in the Sound east of Riverhead.

As July placed its grip of heat and humidity on Long Island the weakfish gradually waned to a trickle and then to nill but the fluke remained, if not in the incredible numbers of late June. Schools of sand eels still moved up and down Gin Beach and the fluke found the inside of the offshore bar the ideal spot for way-laying the bait.

I had found the fluke to be very willing takers of a variety of artificials when the sand eels were as thick as fleas on a junk-yard dog. White whip-tails, small white bucktails, and small tins bounced or wobbled along the bottom brought vigorous strikes from fluke that occasionally danced on the surface in their frenzied feeding binges. But during the hot summer I was in for a surprise.

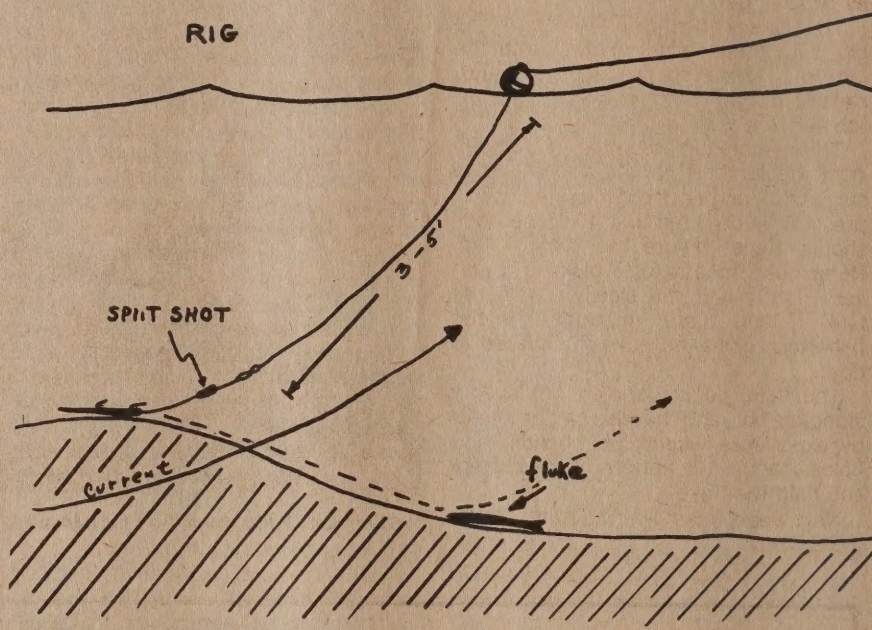
Armed with an impressive array of artificials, I marched onto the beach bathed in dwindling dusk-light. Few beach fishermen were on the scene and those present were not casting. I was undaunted, nonetheless, and began bouncing lures off the inside slope of the offshore bar. I caught nothing.

A few hundred yards down the beach one angler kept taking fish: not a bonanza mind you, but he was scoring steadily.

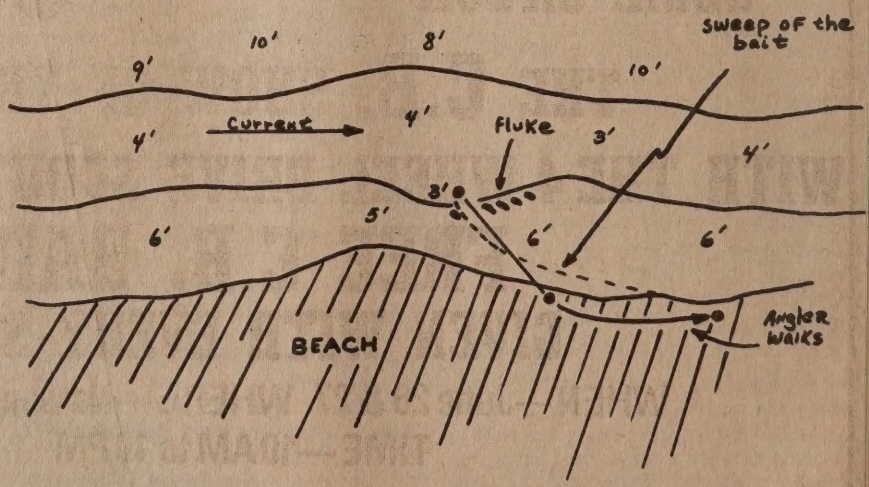
Well, I watched. He was bait fishing with sand eels and squid strips, but his terminal tackle was a bit unusual. He had secured a ½ ounce split shot about a foot above a standard fluke hook and had tied a float about three feet above the split shot.

He walked into the gentle surf as far as he could go and then tossed the combo towards the offshore bar. He retreated to the sand and then began what was perhaps the most crucial procedure.

Now the ½ ounce slug of lead was enough to get the bait down to the bottom. Of course the distance of the float from the hook would have to be changed as the tide rose and fell. Later on this angler suggested about a 5 foot lead at high tide and about a 3 foot lead



SWINGING A BAIT OFF THE OFFSHORE BAR



at the bottom of the tide.

Once this unlikely casting rig was tossed onto the offshore bar this angler began walking with the tide at a deliberate pace. His reel was engaged so his walk pulled the bait slowly off the bar and towards the beach.

Of course, I thought to myself, this somewhat cumbersome procedure from the beach was as close a mimic of our boat fishing strategies in the North Rips as one can get.

The fluke are laying on the slope of the bar with their noses pointing into the current. Therefore, when the squid, sand eels or fish belly strip is dragged off the bar, the fluke can pick it up.

This technique requires a tandem hook rig for best results and the most successful angler stops walking when pressure is detected and 10-15 seconds should elapse before the hook is set. Remember fluke tend to pick up a bait very lightly and will slowly inhale the bait if, and that's important, if the fisherman gives the fluke the chance to do it.

The fluke do not spread out evenly along the bar, and the wise angler knows by experience where cuts, bends, and holes changes the pattern of the current and hold the fluke.

Next week, fluking on the south shore. shore.

Anglers line the surf of Gin Beach at Montauk for some good fluke fishing.

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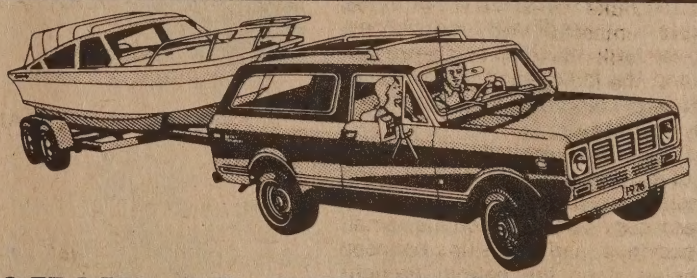
COME HEAR
COME CATCH



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FRESHWATER FISHING with Angelo Peluso

HIDDEN BASS

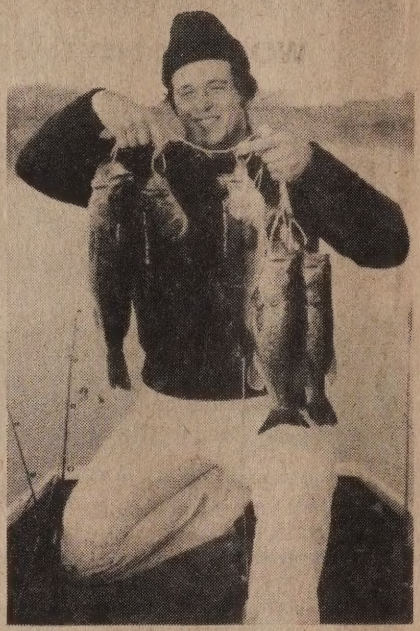
There exists on Long Island places to which the freshwater angler can go and enjoy quality bass fishing without seeing too many traces of civilization. Hogwash, you say. How can that be with the population density of Long Island? Well angling buddies, it's true. The places I speak of are for real and so are the fish. But you must work hard at finding both.

My fishing experiences on Long Island began at some of the better known locations such as Lake Ronkonkoma, Peconic River, and Fort Pond. Each of these bodies of water has treated me well in terms of both quantity of fish and size of fish. The three lakes are known in Long Island bassin' circles of being capable of producing truly large northern bass. Some even speculate, and I happen to be one, that a new state record is finning its way around in one of those bass waters.

Though I regularly fish Ronk, Peconic and Fort, the aesthetic appeal of these locations leaves a lot to be desired. With the exception of the Peconic River and its lower basin, Forge Pond, each of the other two lakes has its circumference marred with signs of the twentieth century. Many might say that conditions of this sort are merely facts of angling life on Long Island, and to an expert they are right. But have you taken the time to look further and more vigorously than the next fisherman for a "paradise" of your own. You might say that you really don't care what a place looks like as long as you catch fish. Hey, that's your perrogative, so do what you wish. But some of you might say, "Ya know, I'd really like to get away from all this and enjoy peace and solitude, and also some good bass fishing." It is for you, the seeker, that I recount the following incidents.

One evening about two seasons back I received a telephone call from a good friend of mine. He invited me fishing the following Saturday and said that he was certain I would enjoy the place that he had in mind. We discussed the lake and I questioned my friend as to the tactics for fishing this area and the productive types of lures, What he told me sparked my imagination and really got me quite anxious to wet a line. But one thing that was said remained on my mind throughout the entire week. It was that we would most likely not see any other fishermen out there. Well, that I had to see (or I should, say not see.)

So Saturday, 4 A.M. came, but none too soon. I met my friend at his house, we loaded our gear and we were off. I immediately picked up the conversation where we left off a few nights prior. "No people you say." "Yep," was the response. "Good fishing?," I followed with. "Yep, again." "How far?". "About an hour." Now about this time I really had ants in my pants anticipating the events that I hoped we were in for. The only thing that appeared to be going against us was the weather. It was rainy and windy but that never bothered me before.



Part of a two-man limit of hidden bass.

Hidden bass can grow fairly large. Here, left to right a 5, 6 and two 3 ½ lb. bass.

As we drove through towns that were familiar to me I began to wonder just where this lake could be. Just then my friend stopped the truck, got out and locked the wheel hubs engaging the four wheel drive. From this point on we went over sand dunes, through sand dunes and around sand dunes. No wonder we would see very few, if any fishermen. Believe me, where we were I wouldn't recommend going without a four wheeler.

The lake simply appeared, as though it were startled by our presence. Let me tell you, it looked good. Even better, it looked great. And you know what? There was no one else there. Quicker than you could say "go" we had the boat in the water and our rods rigged. The "lure" of the lake I was told is a Rebel swimming minnow plug. I tied on my favorite 4½ inch jointed plug, silver with a blue back while my friend chose a 4½ inch straight swimmer, silver with a black back. We moved to a location that was the beginning of a 100 yard trough line. As was to find out, this is one of the lake's most productive spots. The early going were tough. We picked at the fish; a few school sized bass here and there. Then my buddy tied into a largemouth that went 4 pounds 10 ounces and I followed with a brace going 2½ pounds apiece. Then the sky let loose with a pelting rain and a violent wind, which by the way eventually blew us out of position. This though was only after we managed about a dozen bass.

My next opportunity to fish this lake occured last fall when a member of my bass club extended an invitation. The day that we picked was a carbon of the first trip: wind and rain. Once again we were the only ones fishing. As we eased toward that time tested trough I made a cast. A fish was immediately on and the hooks of the trusty Rebel were driven home. One cast, one fish. It certainly

looked very promising. We passed a series of rocks and we each made a cast. Net result: a three pounder and a two pounder. It appeared as if it was just going to be one of those days. We drifted the trough and picked up some small bass and then decided to start the drift again. The beginning of this cast was even more productive than the first. I managed to take a 5 pound 1 ounce bass while my partner picked up a 3 pound bass. With the rain beginning to come down heavier by the minute, we began to cruise down the center of the trough. We picked up a good number of one and two pound fish along both outside edges of the trough, and attributed this activity to the cloud cover which allowed the bass to move out of their deeper haunts to search for food.

We moved to a location where the trough line came between two opposite points of land. After several casts, the sub-surface plug was hit hard. In the first few seconds of the battle I knew that I'd gotten into a good fish. As it turned out, the bass weighed in at an even six pounds. After landing this old boy, I began to fan cast the area once again. Bango! This next fish hit with even more authority than the six pounder. The bass fought extremely hard, and as he neared the boat my partner made ready with the net. I applied constant pressure and kept the fish coming. The arched rod snapped back like a released spring. the fish was gone, and my plug was split in two!

The events that followed were anti-climatic. We finished up this particular day catching (we released all but four fish) thirty one bass. To repeat, this all happened on Long Island and I am certain that it can and will happen again. Along about this time you might be wondering why the heck I haven't mentioned the name of the lake or lakes that I refer to in the article. Well, there's one very good reason. If you recall, I stated in the opening paragraph that to find good fishing you must be willing to work hard, and once located a body of water must be fished hard. If I were to go ahead and spill the beans as to the where-abouts of the hidden bass paradise, I'd be spoiling half of your fun. Right?

What you should do if you're interested in searching out a few places is to open up a map of Nassau and Suffolk counties and circle off bodies of water that you have never fished. Then take a shot in the dark and give a couple of them a good workout. Remember, if a place doesn't produce on the first go-round, don't give up. Go back a second and a third time. If you are lucky enough to land a real "honker" you might have found a gold mine for yourself. If you look extra hard, you might even find a place or two where I hang out. Good luck.

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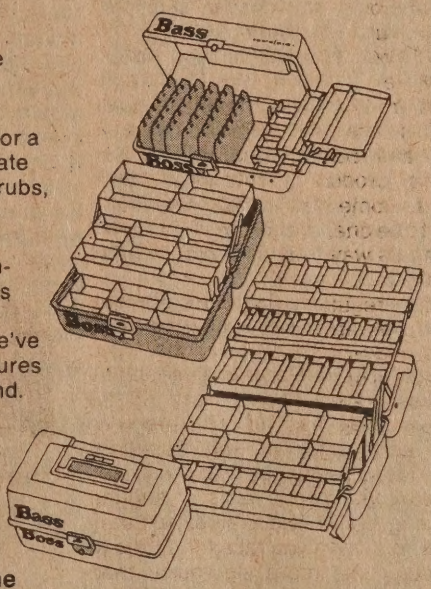

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

A letter to the editor in a recent issue of New Jersey Fisherman criticized the magazine for promoting me for a spot on the Regional Fishery Management Council, to be formed under terms of the 200 Mile Limit Bill. The writer said he was sick and tired of the 200 mile business and noted that he "couldn't cast 200 miles". His concern was with the striped bass and he suggested some striper fishermen and charter skippers that he'd like to see nominated.

I'm not a bit thin-skinned and never mind a bit of criticism, but this letter does deserve an answer, if only to clear up some points that, apparently, we haven't succeeded in getting across. As far as the council is concerned, the problem isn't finding individuals qualified to present the sportfishing viewpoint, but rather to find qualified anglers with the time and inclination to take on this vital task. The council position is part-time, but the members will be on call and it's likely that a great deal of time will be involved the first year. People with ordinary 9-5 jobs can't just take a day here or a day there to fulfill their commitments. Nor can the charter and party boat captains, who would otherwise make ideal candidates. Therefore in searching for candidates, the list had to be pared down to that small minority who could take the time and were willing to give up a good deal of fishing in order to attend the meetings.

The thing that troubled me most about this letter was the failure of the writer to appreciate the interrelationships involved in the marine ecological system. It's quite true that the striper is a coastal species that rarely wanders beyond even the present 12 mile limit. Nevertheless, what goes on in the high seas is of vital importance to our favorite inshore gamefish. Among the most important items in the stripers diet are such species as mackerel, sea herring, and squid, all seriously depleted by foreign fishing. At the moment this piece is being written, anglers are tossing river herring to waiting bass from Jersey jetties. I wonder how many of those anglers realize that the herring appears in the river only briefly (to spawn) and then returns to its normal habitat, the high seas? Foreign overfishing of river herring terribly depleted the runs in many rivers and a special agreement had to be hammered out with the Russians and Poles in order to preserve this important food and fodder fish.

We've worked long and hard to make these important interrelationships a part of government fisheries policy and feel that we're near our goal. Projected fisheries plans take this concept into account and we feel that it must be made the guiding light in the regional councils. Whether you fish from shore of boat; for inshore of offshore species; what happens in the regional councils will affect your fishing, hopefully for the better!

Just as an aside, I did get a chuckle out of being criticized for being associated closely with the 200 mile limit, rather than striper fishing. It was striper conservation that first got me started in lobbying. I was one of the earliest members of the Save Our Stripers and served as president one year. Many is the trip I've made to Albany to argue for gamefish status for the striper. I still serve as a director of that fine organization, as well as of the Striped Bass Fund. I was one of the founders of the latter organization and brought aboard its first president, the late Al Reinfelder. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to be as active in striper conservation during the past few years as I would have liked to be. The 200 mile limit fight was too time consuming and, as previously noted, all of our fisheries are in some way dependent on the high seas. Though the regional councils will have authority only from three miles out, there are means by which states that don't practice good conservation measures in regard to migratory species can be brought into line. The present hodgepodge of striper regulations along the migratory range is doing little to preserve and enhance the fishery. Hopefully, the regional councils will address this question promptly!

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ASK THE CAPTAIN

OPINIONS & ANSWERS

by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

Question: Geoffrey Slack, Wantagh, N.Y.

There are few things more aggravating than cruising 3 or 4 miles to reach a likely looking fishing area only to find it waist deep. My question is what maps can I use to get an accurate picture of New York waters and especially the Great South Bay area with depth, channel and buoy markings?

Answer:

You can obtain a geodetic survey chart of any area in the world. The charts are complete in every way including water depth, bottom conformation, land ranges RDF stations and loran lines to name just a few. If you cannot find one at your local marine supply try Shanes Marine Hardware in Island Park, New York. I am sure they can supply the charts you need. The address and telephone number is 4365 Austin Blvd., Island Park, N.Y. 11558, 516-GE 1-0399. Ask for Drew. Except for a few abbreviated designations such as (4 sec fl.) meaning (4 second flasher on a buoy) the chart is simple to read and understand. If after seeing the chart you feel that further clarification is needed get a copy of Motor Boating by Chapman. It has an excellent chapter on chart reading. If you have any trouble finding a copy locally Shanes can supply the book along with the charts. Most of the better equipped tackle shops carry scaled down charts of their general fishing areas, you might look into this before ordering the big charts they may be the best answer to your problem.

Question: Jeff Salkin, New York, N.Y.

The talent of catching striped bass has seemed to elude us! Since you are an obvious and respected authority on bass fishing, I was hoping you could give us some information on light tackle bass fishing in the shallow waters of Great South Bay in the Fire Island area. An indication of which plugs, tides and jigs which would be likely to produce strikes would be of huge help to us. Thanks.

Answer:

Dear Jeff,

A large percentage of the big fish caught in your area during the past few seasons have fallen to live or chunk bait (bunkers, herring, eels.) Bait can be fished successfully on light tackle supplying lots of excitement. You fail to mention whether you are fishing from a boat or from the beach, making the question difficult to answer in detail. As far as tides are concerned, the outgoing water has always been good to me with the changes supplying the most action. Regardless of how you are fishing try to find out what bait is in the area and do your best to duplicate it. If sand eels are predominant stay with umbrella rigs and surgical tubes in the dark colors, or small vibrating type underwater swimming plugs if you are casting. When bunkers and herring prevail use the big bunker spoons or large Danny trolling plugs, white produces the best for me. If the water depth is 15 feet or less you can stay with mono line. Deeper water demands wire line. If you are not using bait from the beach at night I suggest big surface swimmers fished slow. (Do not pop or splash them just a slow steady retrieve.) The Fire Island area has been one of the top producers of big fish especially during the months of Sept. through November.

Question: John Gortakowski, Bayshore

I am writing to you, but it may sound crazy. That's what all my friends say, but I just have to find out for myself one way or another.

Last year with the fall run of weakfish I took my sons fishing at night after work down at the Bayshore Dock. Well there we met a fellow fisherman who had the same bad luck as we had or maybe worse. Every night for a whole week it happened at the same time and to this day we still do not know what it was. It was like hooking up with a car under the water and having that car drive away! It took quite a bit of line off my reel and there was no stopping it. Eventually the line popped. Within the next half hour the same kind of luck happened to the other fisherman. After that we both had some good catches of weaks.

The next day I took 50 lb. test line with 80 lb. leader on a fish finding rig. I wanted to see what it was. The same time that night it happened again. There was no hitting the line, just the pole starting to bend like when you have a big crab pulling it. So up came the pole and I set the hook. I had it turned once but it was into shallow water and it didn't want to go that way so it turned around and went out into the bay like I was not holding the pole at all. Then my line let go, the swivel just opened up straight like a needle. The same was happening to the fellow down the dock at the same time, but to him it was worse. It took the face of his spinning reel rig off his reel and when he brought his line in, his hook was straight. So my question is what was around in the south bay that time of year that would do such. I know it was big.

Answer:

Dear John,

Your letter is enough to scare the pants off all surf fishermen and swimmers in the area. I have seen some pretty big Dusky and Brown sharks in the bays during late August and September, but doubt if they are your problem. I would tend to rule out both sharks and rays by your explanation of its fighting tactics. I really feel at a loss to answer your question knowingly. My suggestion to you is, if the incident occurs this season try setting up a 300 foot ¼" nylon handline using a 20 foot aircraft cable leader attached to a 12/0 sobey hook tying the end to a substantial object. I would appreciate a call from you if you decide to try again to catch this (whatever it is). I'd like to be there.

Question: George Weldman, Woodside

Can you tell me the proper speed to troll bunker spoons. I do very poorly using spoons and am told that I troll too slowly. I have been trolling about 600 rpm's.

Answer:

First of all do not watch the tach. Watch the spoons. The biggest mistake people make when fishing spoons is to watch the tach or another boat. You will have to increase or reduce your trolling speed 100 times a day. Every time you change direction, going into or along with the tide even a wind change on your bow or off the stern will effect your trolling speed. Keep those spoons working steady and hard. A too slow spoon will catch only bluefish, not bass. A too fast spoon will catch nothing.

BASS & BUNKERS

Part II

by Capt. Ron Onorato

The hard part of getting the bait is now out of the way as we discussed it last week. The harder part of finding some large striped bass to eat the bunker is the next thing in line. As the larger stripers migrate along the coast, they usually stop along the way to feed for a certain length of time. The wood and stone jetties of Long Island's south shore are a natural feeding zone. These structures hold crabs, mussels, and loads of small forage fish. This bait in turn holds the bass. In many cases these jetties are the only obstructions on an otherwise open beach.

The jetties and wooden panels of Long Island's south shore run from the famous Breezy Point jetty all the way to Jones Inlet. While each one may not hold fish, some are consistent producers all the time. A jetty may be hot one year, while the next year there is no life on it.

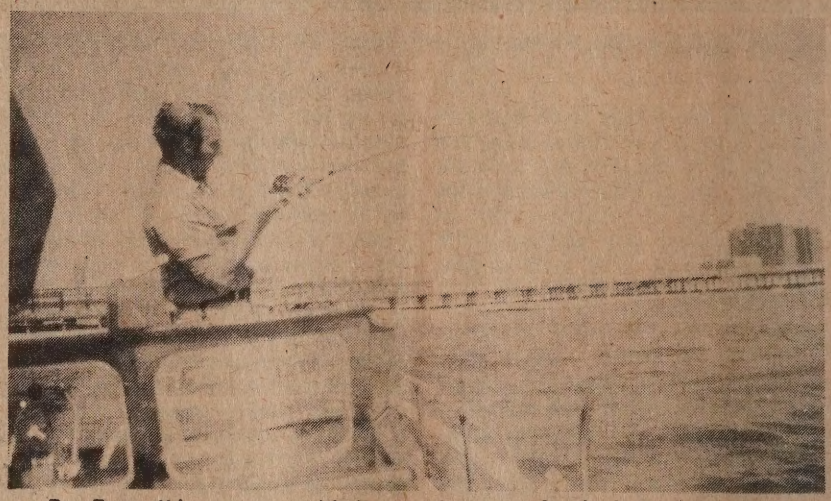
Fishing the rocks for the first time may seem a little hairy, especially if there is any sort of wave action, but after awhile it gets easy. The idea is to get the boat as close as possible to the tip of the jetty and then drop the live bait in the water. This can be easy or difficult, depending on wind conditions.

Since Long Island runs pretty much east-west, the most favorable wind for beach fishing is a northerly breeze. A north wind flattens out any sort of wave action and gives the boat a nice drift away from the jetty. A light west or east breeze is good too because the boat will drift parallel to the beach. A wind from any southerly quarter is the hardest because it increases wave action along the surf line and keeps blowing the boat back inshore.

The water depth around the end of the stones may run from six to ten feet depending on the tide stage, so a great deal of caution must be used or you're going to end up high and dry. Sometimes if there is fish life your attention is distracted and a wave may slip in on you.

Tackle selection must be on the heavy side for a number of reasons. You will be dealing with an extremely strong fish that runs into the 50 pound range, and his main goal is to get into the rocks as quickly as possible. You're just not going to hold a big bass on light tackle in a rocky area. Light tackle would be very good on a clear, open bottom.

A long, beefy boat rod around 7 or 8 feet in length is the preferred weapon. This rod is matched up with a complementing reel of at least 30 pound mono line.



Ray Bennett hangs on as a big bass makes a run for the bottom near boat.

George Oliver removes hook from a small bass.

Terminal rigging is pretty simple. A 2/0 or 3/0 extra strength treble is connected to your line via a small barrel swivel and a three foot length of leader material. The leader should test out at around 40 pounds. The small barrel swivel prevents your line from twisting when the bunker is swimming around.

The treble hook is then inserted in the upper lip of the bunker. The bunker is able to breathe properly when hooked in this manner and can swim around pretty freely.

The bunker is all hooked up and has just been deposited at the edge of a jetty tip, now all that's left is for a bass to eat it. This is where having a great deal of patience comes in handy. Bass are extremely cagey fish and they may eyeball a bunker for an hour before eating it. Sometimes they can't get the bait down fast enough.

You have to make a couple of passes at every jetty you try in order to cover it well. If you don't have any bass life after three passes, move on to the next one. The first sign of bass life is an increase in the swimming of your bunker. The bait often comes to the top of the surface and will slap at the bunker with its tail. I recall several years ago off a Long Beach jetty when a bass hit my live bunker no fewer than 5 times and did not try to eat it at all. This was a fish in the 30 pound range, and when I retrieved my bunker, virtually every scale was off its back.

Every now and then you find a fish that's real hungry and doesn't want to fool around with the bunker before swallowing it. First you will get a pick up. This means a bass has picked up the bunker and is running with it in its mouth. To try and set the hook now would merely pull the bait from the bass's mouth. As the bass is running with the bait, it will turn the bunker headfirst, and then swallow it. All this takes anywhere from four to six seconds. After you feel that the bass has had enough time to swallow the bait, put the reel into gear and hit the fish. One of three things can have happened: you will have hooked the bass, you will bring in a slightly smashed bunker, or you will bring in an empty hook. The empty hook occurs when an extremely energetic bass shakes his head vigorously when he is running with the bait and thereby shakes the hook from the bunker.

Suppose all goes well and you've hooked a nice bass. The first order of business is to keep the fish from running into the rocks or some bottom obstruction. The only way to do this is to lean on the fish with that heavy tackle if the fish heads inshore. Sometimes a fish will angle away from the jetty and head offshore. If this happens, you can ease off on the drag a bit.

The bass will wear itself out against the heavy outfit and will be alongside the boat for gaffing. A quick shot in the head with the gaff and you have your trophy flopping its tail on the bottom of your boat.

The number of big bass taken along the south shore of Long Island has declined dramatically in the past several years. The biologists all point to a general decline of large, spawning females all along their range. All fishermen should bear this in mind when seeking cow bass.

Fortunately, a group of sportsmen seem to be emerging whereby live release is favored over the killing of a fish. By using barbless trebles and provided that the fish is not gut hooked. almost any lip or throat hooked fish will live if it is revived before release. Another good measure is to avoid the use of stainless steel hooks. Tinned hooks will rust out of fish that made its way to freedom by cutting the mono, provided it's not gut hooked, stainless steel hooks won't rust. Every large female released has the potential for many thousand smaller fish in the future, keep it in mind.

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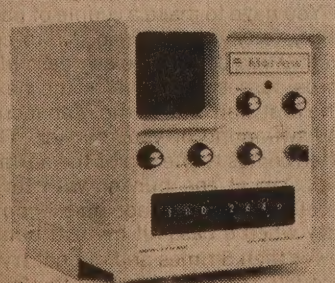

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NATURAL BAITS—CLAM

by Frank Berrafato

In salt water fishing nearly every angler uses natural baits at one time or another. Most salt water species, such as the blackfish, striped bass, and fluke are easy targets for a properly presented natural bait. Obviously then, the wise angler is one who is familiar with natural baits, how they are caught or obtained, how they are hooked and rigged, and how they are presented and worked. Seaworms, squid, crabs, spearing and killifish are just some of the popular natural baits available to Long Island fishermen. This article will deal with two types of clams common to Long Island waters—the hard shell clam (quahaug) and the skimmer clam (also known as the sea, surf or hen clam.)

Clams are "mollusks", derived from the Latin word molluscus, meaning "soft"—referring to the softness of the body characteristic of members of the family. The hard shell clam can be readily found along the miles of Long Island's shallow water inlets and bays, from the black, oozing mud of tidal marshes to the expanses of sandy bottoms, uncovered only at the low tidal stage. Skimmer clams, on the other hand, are found in prodigious quantities in shallow, offshore beds, where they are harvested by hydraulic dredges. However, after a big storm, these big surf clams are washed up on the beach and can be picked up for bait.

Many fishermen resist using clams because the softness of the bait presents a problem when trying to keep them on the hook, especially when surfcasting. Upon close examination of the clam's anatomy, certain durable parts, in particular the foot, mantle and siphons can be effectively used and presented.

The clam is a bivalve (two shells) with the two halves hinged to permit opening. Two strong adductor muscles hold the shells together, relaxing when the clam is in a leisurely mood or to allow extension of the siphon and foot. (See illustration for fishermen's sketch of the clam's anatomy.)

The inside of the clam is surprisingly complicated. He has two siphons or paired tubes—for intake and exhaust. Water sucked in through the intake on which the clam feeds, and also, oxygen. Waste products are ejected with water squirted out through the exhaust siphon. The siphons are a more durable part of the clam's anatomy, and they can be cut into small pieces for flounders or porgies.

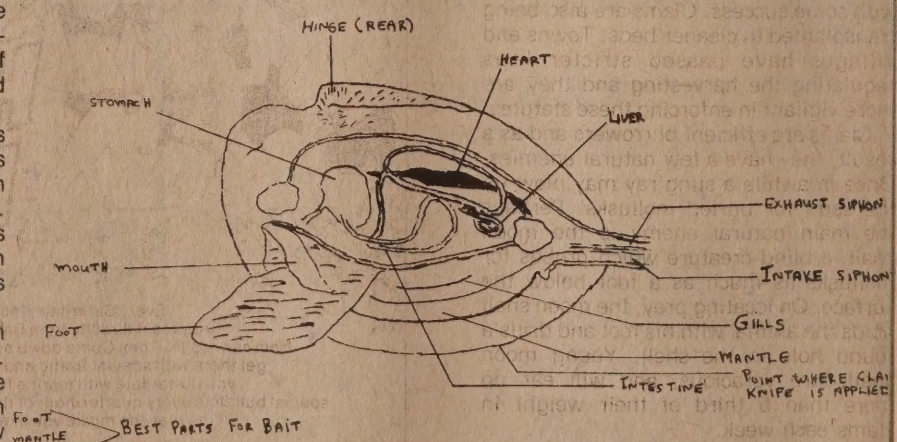
For locomotion the clam has one foot, which is very muscular. He can move by extending the foot, anchoring it, then pulling himself along by contracting the foot. The fisherman can easily identify this smooth, tough, roughly triangular organ which is usually a yellowish color in the hard shell clam. This part is strong enough even for the baitcaster to use, if it is carefully put on the hook.

The digestive organs consist of stomach, intestines and liver, bringing about absorption of food extracted from water sucked in through the siphon. A simple heart aids in distributing oxygen and nourishment throughout the body. Gills extract oxygen from water passed through them by the intake siphon.

A particularly interesting organ is the mantle. This is a membrane, a filmy envelop which encases the clam inside the shell. The mantle is very important to a clam because it secretes the lime material forming the shell. It is important to the fisherman because this stringy part can be wrapped several times around the hook, making the soft substance more durable as a bait.

The entire inside of a clam draped on a hook is used for striped bass in the surf and for cod and haddock offshore. For smaller fish such as blackfish, porgies, sea bass and flounders, smaller pieces should be used. When fishing for flounders this writer has found that a small piece of clam on a hook decorated with several red cellophane bands from cigarette packages makes an effective bait.

Although the mantle, foot and the siphon are the most durable parts of the clam, some fishermen steam their clam baits first to help keep them on the hook. Another toughening method is to open



FISHERMAN'S SKETCH OF THE HARD-SHELL CLAM

the clams and let them dry a bit in the sun. When fishing jetties, this writer will usually shuck the clams, putting the contents in an absorbent rag, before climbing onto the jetty. This serves a two-fold purpose. It toughens the bait a bit by drying it out and also, the angler does not have to carry a whole bag of large, cumbersome steamer shells with him onto the jetty. When using whole clams, I sometimes wrap a few turns of thin thread around the bait to hold it more securely to the hook.

Skimmer clams can be fairly easily shucked by running a clam knife (a short, stiff, blunt knife with one sharp edge) firmly between its gaping shells. They do not seem to attain the near-perfect occlusion of the quahaugs. One notices that the quahaug seems to close more tightly after being disturbed. A trick in opening them is to hold the hinge part toward the palm. The clam knife is then applied, with pressure, in the tiny channel where the two halves of the shell come together, at the point which is the greatest distance from the hinge (rear) of the shell. (See illustration for labelled parts.)

The clam, although he encloses himself securely in a shell house, buried beneath the sand, has several enemies which threaten his existence. Man and pollution head the list. Storm water runoff and waste pollution have contaminated many of the south shore beds. The harvesting of undersized clams by amateur clammers threatens the shellfish population. The destruction of clambeds by summer clammers, who in tearing up the bottom of Great South Bay, has also contributed to the demise of the clam.

Some efforts have been made to reverse this trend of over-harvesting, pollution and destruction of shellfish beds. Sewerage treatment plants have been constructed, and they have met with some success. Clams are also being transplanted to cleaner beds. Towns and villages have passed stricter laws regulating the harvesting and they are more vigilant in enforcing these statutes.

Clams are efficient burrowers and as a result, they have a few natural enemies. Once in awhile a sting ray may plow up the sand for buried mollusks. Perhaps the main natural enemy is the moon snail, a blind creature which probes for mollusks as much as a foot below the surface. On locating prey, the moon snail holds the animal with his foot and drills a round hole in the shell. Young moon snails are voracious, and will eat up more than a third of their weight in clams each week.

Clams are an integral part of the Long Island fishing scene. They can be effective as a natural bait for boatfishermen and baitcasters alike, if they are used and presented properly to the finny inhabitants of Long Island's waters.

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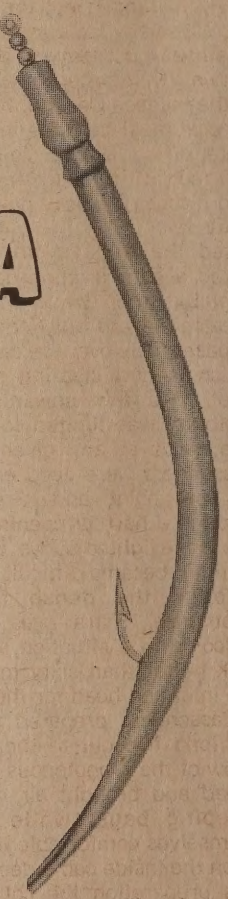

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Target of the Bullet- TILEFISH

by Dick Mermon

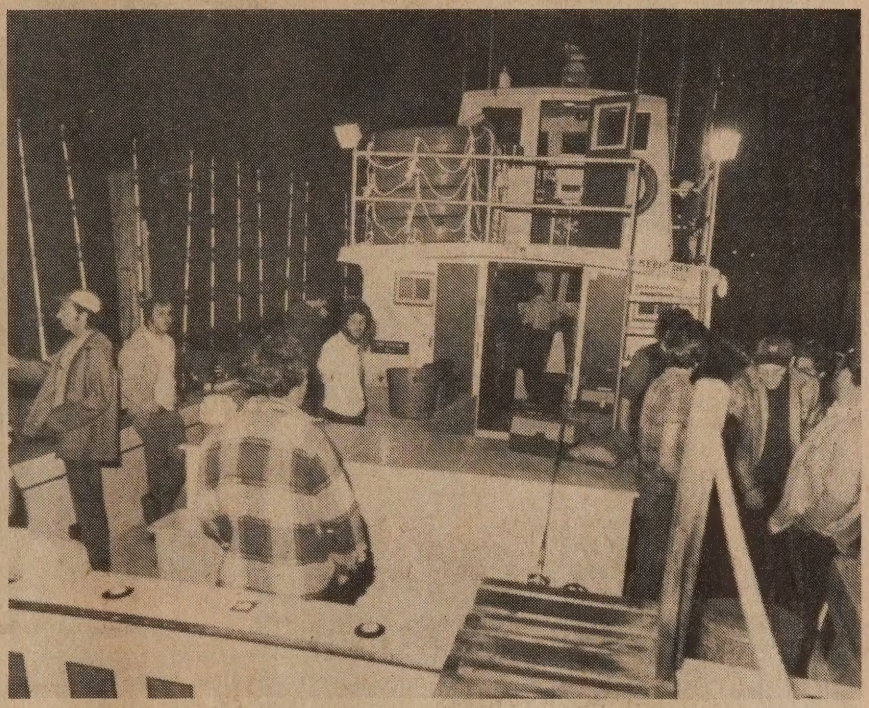
Bleary eyed and still tranquilized slightly by Morphious, I stepped from my car at the Anchorage Marina in Lindenhurst N.Y. At one thirty in the morning any sane person would be in their bed sleeping, but there was great activity commencing aboard the new charter boat "Bullet", moored just ahead of me. Her first sailing was cancelled due to damaged props when she ran around in the shallow channel. This was to be her maiden voyage and the target for it today, tilefish.

Tile fishing is not the easiest to take on, especially for a maiden voyage run. The boat must leave at an ungodly hour of two AM in order to reach tile territory in the Hudson Canyon. Fishing for these species must be done in the deepest of water off our shores. To be exact, 380 to 400 feet is the depth tilefish are found and it must be rocky type bottom.

At two A.M., Captain Jay Porter eased the Bullet from her berth and sliced a path through dense fog which engulfed the Great South Bay. The greatest hazard was finding the opening to pass safely over the dredges pipeline, which is now clearing the Fire Island Inlet of a few unwanted sand bars. Visibility was limited to about seventy five yards at any given time. Several passengers were good enough to stand at bow point and direct the travel through a narrow opening between the two white lighted buoys. Even with radar going, it became difficult to spot the gap through the dense fog from the pilothouse. Extra eyes are always welcome in a situation such as this. It took better than sixty minutes to clear the inlet and head for the open sea.

Passengers prepared themselves for the long trip out to the canyon. Some knew of the monotonous ride there was ahead and brought air mattresses and sleeping bags, while others made themselves comfortable in corner bunks or on the inside cabin deck. Amongst all this preparation the collection of pool money for the largest tilefish of the day was being done by the captain's daughter, Ann Porter. Each passenger that entered the pool had his name recorded in a ledger so there were no mistakes as to who was in or out of the fish money reservoir.

After an hours travel from the inlet the fog continued to encircle us and my eyes once again became heavy from lack of sleep. The most comfortable spot in the



Anglers get aboard the "Bullet" for the long haul to the tilefish grounds

pilothouse was already taken by Patty and Bob Ishkanian and was not about to argue over territory with the owners of the boat. Hence, I had my choice of either sleeping standing or on the floor in the corner of the pilothouse. Captain Porter woke me once from my curled, comfortable corner to explain the many blips on the radar screen.

"Those are Russians", he said. "They're not all Ruskis but I call them Russians, because they work the same place at the same time", he continued. "Just go back to sleep and hope they have their radar on us as we have on them, 'cause if they don't, they'll think they squashed an apple crate or something."

With that thought in mind I curled back up into my nice safe corner and went back to sleep. To be honest, the way I felt, I didn't care less one way or the other. Before long there was light creeping in under the brim of my hat and it washed the stardust from my eyes. Stepping from the pilothouse onto the outer section of the bridge, I looked down at the passengers below. Some were sitting on the engine boxes, heads still limp with sleeplessness. Others talked to one another about the huge sea swells the Bullet was climbing and how much bigger they looked to the rear of the boat. Fog still shrouded our sailing and added a chill to the damp air.

Two mates off to the side rigged stout custom-made, tile-cod rods by Duke's Tackle Shop. They were solid, one piece, Shakespeare Shark blanks and anticipated to do the job of hauling up the deep tilefish and wreck swimming cod. Each time a rod was rigged it was set into a holder placed in the boat's gunwale. When all were in place, the Bullet looked like it was ready to do battle, with its white, eight foot lances all in upright position.

Each fishing rod held a 6/0 reel filled with wire line. To the business end of the wire a piece of eighty pound test mono, two foot in length was fastened. Attached to this mono is a 16 oz. sinker and a two foot length of eighty pound leader material. Tied to this lead is a long shank 10/0 hook.

A palm size squid is placed onto the single hook. Two baits on the hook is really more realistic because of the

distance to the bottom. If baited with but one squid and is lost on the descend or on the first strike, retrieving is long and aggravating.

After a lengthy six and a half hour ride, the diesels roar ceased and the Bullet swung into position for the first drift over tilefish grounds, about one hundred miles from shore. As soon as it was in wind drift position all baits headed for the bottom. When I say bottom, I mean bottom, if there was one. The reels practically emptied all the wire to reach the shelf. In fact one fisherman turned to me and said "if I let any more out I'll have to jump in and hold the rod down.

"Reel up some wire until you feel something solid and heavy" I answered. "You're probably overiding the sinker with the weight of the wire line", I commented further.

As he did the rod bent a little, indicating direct contact with the weight, but the stiff solid glass rod arched even further in protest of a sudden heavier weight below. A throbbing, bouncing tip of the fisherman's rod meant only one thing, a tilefish was on. He began to reel and as he did, he looked over his shoulder at me and with strain of pain on his face, but a big smile said, "GOT ONE!"

Before long the first tilefish was on board and it weighed in at thirty seven pounds. For over two hours tilefish were being gaffed by all three mates aboard. From bow to stern the action was good. With all this activity I could not continue to just watching and taking pictures. I had brought along a 6/0 reel filled with mono and a new rod to test for Shakespeare. What better place could I test this rod than on bulldogs such as these.

Figuring there would be a minimum of stretch on the descended mono, I tied two sixteen ounce sinkers and a single hook to its end. After baiting the hook I let those sinkers take the squid bait to where I thought was the bottom. The line continued to travel from the spool of the reel as though there were no stopping base. When half the reel was gone I began the long retrieve to see if I could feel the weights hitting someplace called bottom. Suddenly the rod dipped and bent in strain indicating a fish had taken the bait and was now fighting the long upward haul. Once the fish was safely aboard I tried again with the mono line. It was like bouncing the bottom with a rubberband tied to the rod. The mono stretched from the long distance it had to be fished and created a great big bow between the line and the water pressing against it. In fact, some of the other fishermen that had brought along their own personal gear, with mono had the same problem and did poorly compared to the wire liners. This is a point that should be very much considered when attempting a tile fishing trip. Leave the mono to the shallow water type fishing and go wire young man, go wire.

Lovely mate Ann Porter puts the gaff to a 30 pound tilefish.

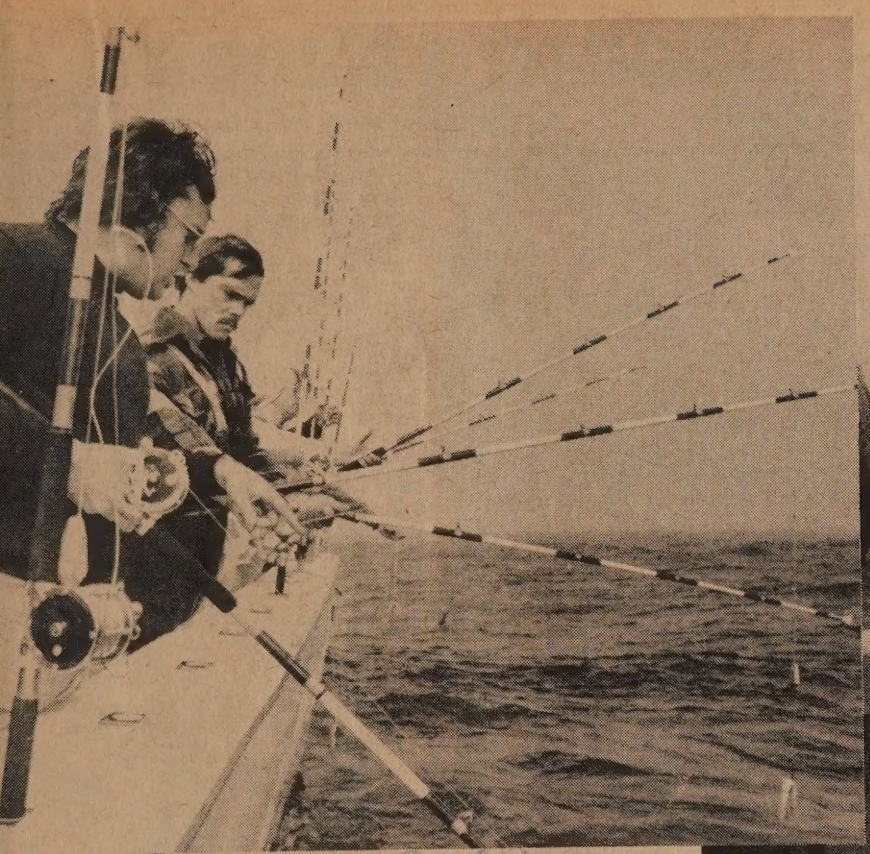
Finally after one hour fishing without even so much as a hit on the mono filled reel, I made that long mussel aching retrieve and switched to the Bullet's wire line and stiff shark stick. No sooner had the bait this time touch bottom and I felt it touchdown this time, a message was telegraphed up the wire to the rod tip that a fish was on and I set the hook. With a protracted, agoning, tiring, brow wetting, back straining retrieve, I brought that fish to the surface. At the sight of him, he was forgiven for living in such a forsaking depth and distance from shore. This time I looked closer at what I was fighting and cussing at. It had a bull head of a dolphin, belly of a codfish, teeth smaller but similar to a bluefish, fins of a hake, and the coloration which is almost undescribible beauty of shiny gold, silver, blue, pink and black spotted body. Being down so deep I thought its eyes would be slanted, but found them to be as big as half dollars. All in all, these fish are second in coloration to that of a dolphin (not that of a porpoise which is also called a dolphin.)

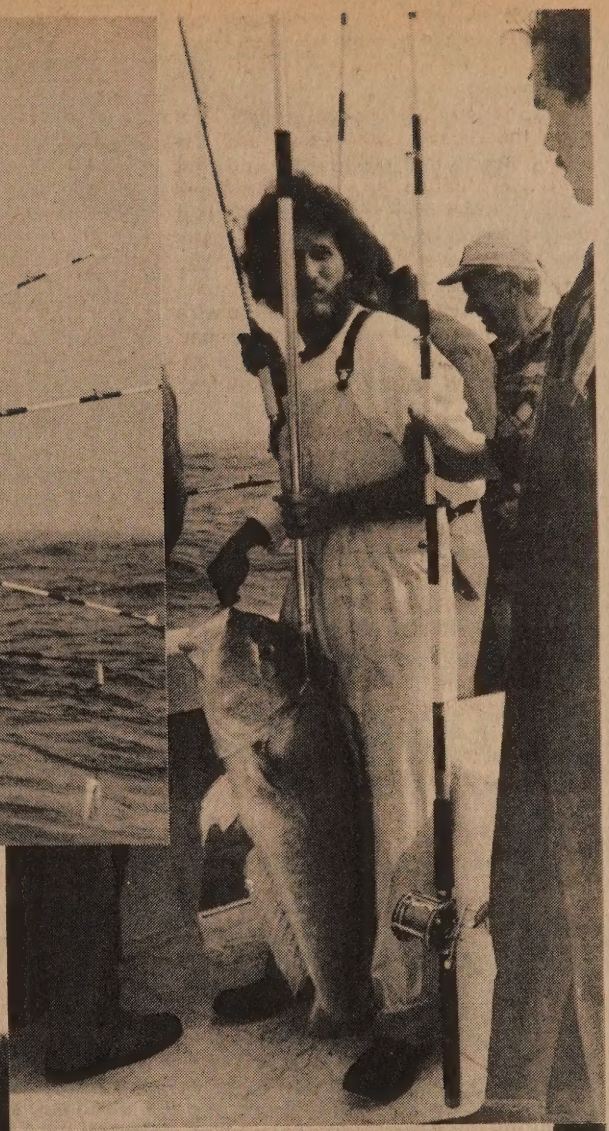
About eleven thirty Captain Porter requested that all lines be retrieved to the surface. The boat had drifted off the tile grounds and had to circle back into the section where the fish were. At this period an unfortunate incident occured. During all the activity one of the passengers had suffered a fatal heart attack inside the main cabin without notice. Everything was attempted to revive the victim but to no avail. The Coast Guard was notified and a helicopter soon arrived to remove the victim from the Bullet. With all due respects to the relatives also on board, Captain Porter announced that the fishing had to be cut short and must return to port.

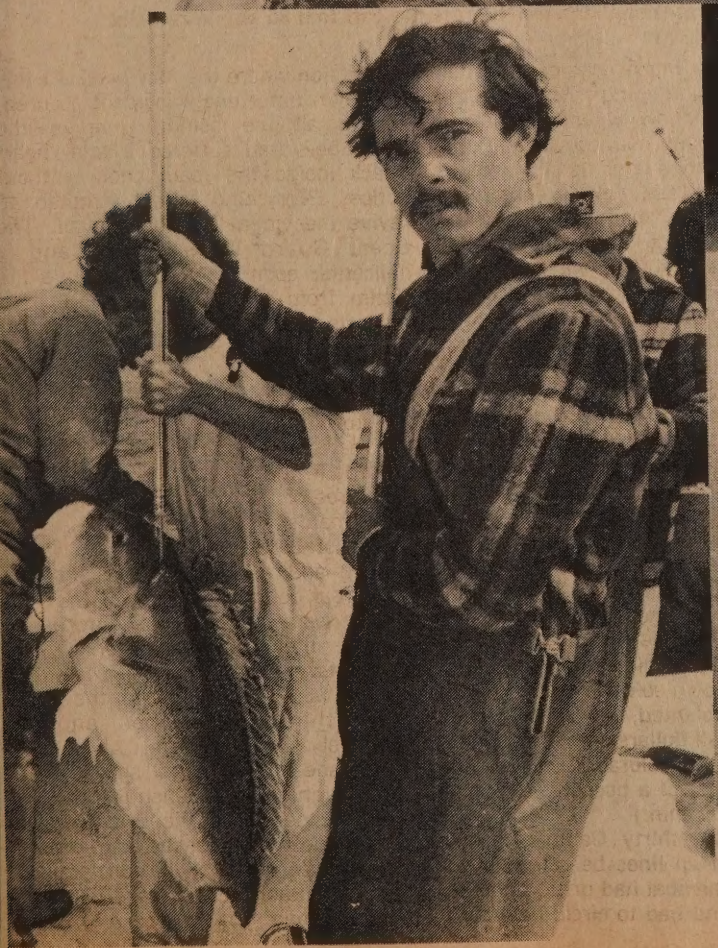
Returning to the Anchorage Marina, the mates counted over ninety tilefish aboard, including the two which I had and three of Whity Evans, Long Island Fisherman's "Scampering Gourmet" columnist. Largest fish of the day was 37 pounds and second heavyweight was thirty four pounds.

If it were not for the unfortunate mishap, the Bullet's maiden voyage would have been a total success and tilefish would have loaded the bags. These things do happen and are completely uncontrollable. As for the Bullet, she hit the target smack in the center, right on the tilefish territory.

All the people of the Bullet convey their deepest condolences to the family and relatives of the Nichalson family in Staten Island of the untimely death of a fine fisherman.







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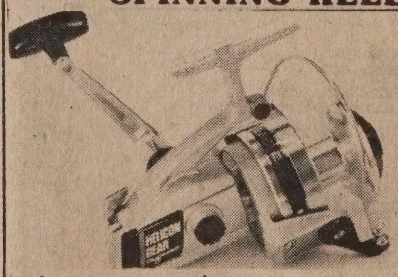

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MONTAUK REPORT

by Scott Simons

MONTAUK

Fishing has improved on all fronts out at Montauk and it looks like the action can break wide open any day now. The fantastic offshore fishing still holds the spotlight but the inshore fishing is improving daily. Blue sharks are still in solid in the Butterfish Hole area...no Mako sharks have been boated yet, but several have been on and either thrown the hook or broken off. No swordfish have been taken on hook and line as yet, but there have ben sightings and chances are excellent that the first will be boated this weekend. Striped bass fishing has shown a marked upturn from the thus far disappointing spring, with fish up to 48 lbs. being taken in the rips using both Diamond jigs and trolling with umbrella rigs. Sea bass fishing remains the greatest ever known, and porgies are starting to mix in with them. The first significant catch of those Monster Montauk Blues was taken at Cartwright on herring by Capt. Dick Vigilant of the newly-painted **Triton II**. Fluke fishing has now reached the full Montauk proportions with quite a few doormats being taken with the average two and three pounders.

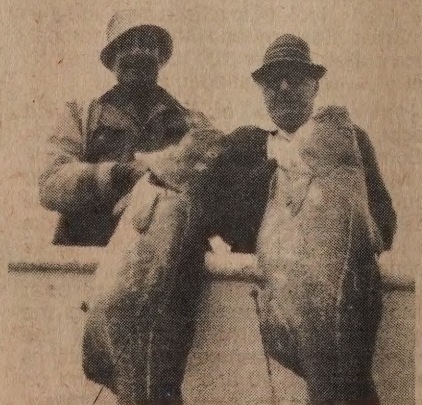
Captain Ed Spider Hegner of the charterboat **Web** reports that on Friday evening trolling and jigging bucktails and feather jigs, he came up with 28 bass and 2 bluefish for a twilight charter.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Helen II** was very happy to tell us of some of the real hangers that have been coming aboard all week. Best fish of the week was a fourteen pound doormat that was taken on Tuesday. On Sunday some anglers took over 25 keepers, like Bernie Ray who had doormats of 8, 9½ and 13 lbs. mixed in his catch of over 25. The fluke are now in very strong at the North Rips and eastwards towards Midway. Brad also asked us to caution anglers not to go ripping over the rips which lie along the top of the fluke-attracting shoals that rise to within twenty feet of the surface because the fluke can be spooked.

As usual, Capt. Dick Vigilant of the charter boat **Triton II** initiated the Montauk bluefish season Friday with his catch of 74 bluefish at Cartwright on herring. Dick apoligized for the size of the choppers, which were small by Montauk standards . . . they **only** averaged about ten to twelve pounds. The striped bass fishing on Tuesday's late-afternoon/evening trip was excellent, with 23 bass and 9 bluefish taken on Diamond jigs and trolling. On Saturday the party aboard wanted to try their hand at some Montauk fluking and each angler was rewarded with a nice bag of three to six pound fish.

Craig Danke of Mt. Kisco caught this 78 lb. blue shark aboard the shark boat Modar I with Capt. Pete Van Alst. The party tagged and released two other blues.

Three charter boats at the **West Lake Fishing Lodge** had an unusual minishark tournament on Saturday, according to Capt. Pete Van Alst of the charter boat **Modar I**. Anglers aboard had arranged that the two losing boats had to pay for the charter and dinner for the crew of the winning boat. Paul McSweeney, Dennis McMahon, Allan Sasso, Richie Paola, and Richard and James Covello were aboard the winning boat that took a remarkable twelve blue sharks up to 150 lbs. All the party members were either New York City Policemen or Wall Street people. On Sunday a party aboard the Modar I headed by Walter Brown of New Jersey took the first reported brown shark of the season and five blue sharks up to 125 lbs. Pete told us that he has been doing his sharking at the south end of the Butterfish Hole in 207 feet of



Walter Weglory with a 32 lb. cod and John Musnsky with a 57½ lb. cod caught aboard the Peconic Queen III.

water.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the charter boat **Montauk** also had words of praise for the shark fishing south of the Point in 180 to 210 feet of water. The boats have been averaging five to a dozen blue sharks a trip, and nobody is getting skunked. Paul also told us that the fluke are in very strong along Gin Beach, with 50 keepers a day for only two anglers, one of whom was Bob Shane of Shane's Marine Supply. Best bait has been a squid strip and sand eel combination, but Paul said that the use of a tandem hook arrangement is essential to a good catch as the fluke are just pleying with the bait and biting "short" of a single hook.

The bass fishing has picked up during the week with the wire-liners taking anywhere from 12 to 30 bass on a half-day trip, accroding to Capt. George McTurck of the charter boat **Sportfisher**. Incoming water was best at the Elbow in the afternooons trolling umbrella rigs. The bass are averaging 12 to 15 lbs. with some 20 to 25. An occasional bluefish has also found its way into the tubes.

It looks like the bluefishing at the Submarine Buoy is getting ready to break wide open, according to Capt. Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish**, who trolled upseveral blues there during the week. fishing has been good, even though it has been hampered somewhat by the perpetual fog and ground swells.

Bass specialist Capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** and Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** teamed up for a busman's holiday on Sunday afternoon and they slaughtered the bass with Diamond jigs. Fishing the incoming tide, they took 30 bass with a combined weight of 435 lbs. which included fish of 25, 29 and 39 pounds. They also took ten bluefish on the jigs. John said that the bass fishing has been picking up since mid-week, when what looks like a new run of bass may have moved into the area. On Thursday a two-man charter of Gene Rackovitch and son, Mike took 14 bass up to 25 pounds with a combined weight of 220 lbs. John said that the fog and groundswells have prevented him from practicing his other specialty, casting bucktails for bass, but with the bass gobbling up the diamond jigs the way they are now, who cares.

The sea bass fishing off the south side of the Point remains the greatest in anyone's memory, and now porgies are starting to show up in the catches, according to Capt. Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud**. Both the Flying Cloud and Capt. Dusty Doerzbacher of the **Little Bear** have ben loading up with sea bass, many 3½ and 4 lbs., at Cartwright, Rocky Hill and the Spider Web. Sunday's fishing was fantastic on the Flying Cloud, when seven anglers took over 700 lbs. of big sea bass between them . . . and that's a lot of sea bass!

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** told us that on Saturday he got a call on the radio from Capt. Richard Jensen of the **Wilhelric** out of Greenport saying that the porgy fishing at Gardiner's Island was good. So the boat made the trip on Sunday and first fished

The pool winners aboard the Viking Star on June 12th were Ed Haugin with a 49 lb. cod and John Maslousky with a 52 lb. cod.

a local wreck there and at the end of the day many anglers had a half bushel of porgies and sea bass, mostly porgies. The boat will now be making a daily run for porgies 5:30 a.m. weekdays and 5 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Capt. Ronnie Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie II** had a party of three headed by Bill November out on Saturday and they caught 77 flounder up to 3 lbs. 7 ozs. and a bushel of sea bass off Culloden Point west of the jetties.

Capt. Murray Homelsky of the charter boat **Cherokee** reports that he went shark fishing and it's very good. There are many blue sharks being caught and Makos are starting to show in the chum slicks. The average run offshore has been 20 to 30 miles depending on the water temperature and the last sightings. The Cherokee is also hunting for swordfish while sharking since this is the usual time they show up in this area. The boat is prepared with all the swordfish equipment and is anxiously waiting their arrival.

Ronnike D'Albora of the **Gone Fishing Marina** called to tell us that big sea porgies ranging from 2½ to 3 lbs. have showed up at Great Eastern, Outer Shagwong and off Culloden Point. His son, Hank, took 14 in a little over an hour at Great Eastern and the charterboat **Rocc** pulled in over 100 lbs. in 30 to 40 feet of water off Culloden Point.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to tell us that the "Bumble Bee" took the 1st Mako shark at Montauk on Sunday that weighed 60 pounds. He also had one small blue shark. The "Say Fish" had 4 blue sharks to 120 pounds and 3 big bluefish to 15 pounds taken while chumming. Captain Dave McMann of the charterboat "Marie II" has been slaughtering the bass on his afternoon trips but the mornings have been poor. Daily catches range between 20 and 30 bass and on Sunday afternoon over 35 were taken, three of which were over 25 pounds. The "Aquaholic" spotted a swordfish 40 miles out in the shipping lane that was baited but turned its nose. The "Friendship" had 20 fluke on Saturday and 30 fluke on Sunday up to 4 pounds.

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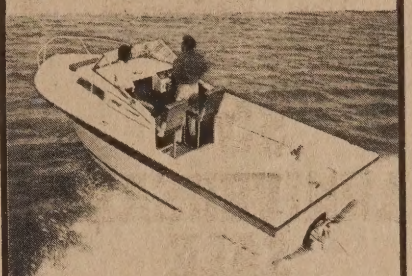

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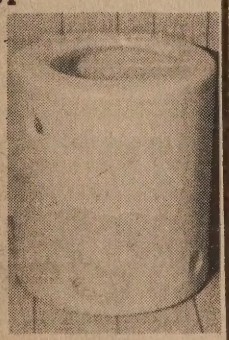

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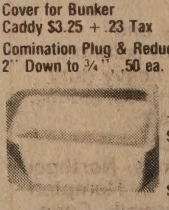

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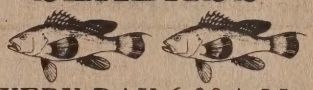
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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

PROMISED LAND

Promised Land Fishing Station reports fluke fishing picking up and weaks along with them. Sizes are mixed on the fluke and are being taken at can #2 by Hicks Island. Bluefish and weaks are not too strong as of yet, but are worth fishing. Blues are 2 to 6 pounds and weaks are 5 to 7. Porgies are picky and are at the Bell Buoy taken on skimmer clam.

EAST HAMPTON

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports quite a few porgies being taken on Saturday and Sunday. Boats fishing Cedar Point or Crow Shoals took between ½ and 1 bushel of porgies. Squid and clam are the bait. Quite a few weakfish some to 7 and 8 pounds are being taken west of Gardiner's, Crow Shoals and So. Ferry. Shrimp lures with squid are taking these fish on all tides.

SHINNECOCK

C. Altenkirch and Sons said the fishing on the outside was minimal due to fog. On the inside fluke fishing was good in Shinnecock Bay using fresh bait. There are lots of keepers that are mostly 2 pounds. Small blues are in the canal. Weakfish is slow and porgy fishing is only fair.

HAMPTON BAYS

Skipper's Fishing Station reports that his skiffs are fishing the East Cut and averaging about 20 keeper fluke per boat. Sharpie Joe Schaefer of the Bronx had 34 keepers and a lot of short fish over the weekend. Snappers are starting

Bill Weppler of Maspeth caught this 7 pound fluke while bottom fishing aboard the charterboat "Rocc" off the Gone Fishing Marina. Subscriber Club Photo.

Roy, Larry and Peggy Cozzolino of Brentwood with 20 fluke caught in the elbow on sand eels and squid. Photo courtesy of Silli Lily Fishing Station.

running from ½ to 1 pound right in front of the station.

Rich Reina Jr. and friend Drew nailed 6 nice keeper fluke on white bucktails tipped with squid fishing Tiana Bay over the weekend.

Frank's Fishing Station said the fog kept many people from fluke fishing on the weekend. During the week the East Channel and Ponoquogue Bridge had good catches of fluke. Squid and sand eel combination did the trick. For those that were fog bound good catches of flounder were taken at buoy 20 on bloodworm.

Jimmy at **Coor's Fishing Station** said the weekend anglers had to keep close to the station because of the fog. There was steady fluke action but most of it being taken on live killies, sand eels and squid. Catches of eight to 20 fish ranging from 15 to 18 inches long were fairly common. Jimmy says to take extra bait along due to the large amount of throwbacks. About 1 out of 3 are keepers and there is plenty of action. Over the weekend small bluefish of 2 to 3 pounds were being taken throughout Shinnecock Bay on Silver Rebels. These were either cast or trolled for the fish depending on their location. Porgies were being taken at the So. Race of Robbins Island on skimmers and squid. Jim says watch his bicentennial boat rate.

MORICHES BAY

Silly Lily Fishing Station said fluke action was pretty good at the Elbow to buoy 36 on Saturday despite the fog. Best bait is sand or spearing with squid. Killies don't seem to do as well. Some flounder action mostly in the holes north

Chris Stuven of Pelham Manor landed these two fluke weighing 6¾ and 6¼ lbs. along with a 10 lb. bluefish in the new cut of Moriches Inlet. Photo courtesy of Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station.

of buoy 36 and Gull Island. These are nice sized fish that are taking worms.

Skidmore's Fishing Station said there were plenty of flounder on the south side of buoys 38 and 39. Several boats had over 40 fish that were taken on bloodworms and no chum. John says be patient and if you have gotten fish in one stage, they should come back with the change of tide. There are plenty of fluke drifting along the bars into Harts Cove and buoys 36 and 39. Quite a few of these are throwbacks. Bigger fish on the No. side of buoy 42 and 43 can be had. Some of these go to 6 and 7 pounds. Spearing, squid and sand eels are the bait. Tommy Kovitz with a live bunker at buoy 36 on one day took a 26 pound striped bass and on the second day took 2, one was 27 and the other 34 pounds.

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station reports fluke fishing is improving at buoys 36, 38 39 and the Elbow. Live killies seem to work better than sand eels.

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station says that he has been asked by a lot of people whether any pollution has hit the Mastic Beach area and his answer is an emphatic NO. Very good fluke and bluefishing for the week but slowed on the weekend due to fog. A lot of short fluke are hitting, but the holes on the flats produced good numbers of keepers. Buoys 17 thru 19 are best for fluke with buoy 12 producing more and bigger fish **[West of Smith Point Bridge)** on spearing, sand eels, and squid, all tides. Blues are very strong now fish are running 1 to 2 pounds with buoy 12 producing big schools all day long, hitting Striper Swipers and other surface poppers. Some blowfish at buoy 17 along with blue claw crabs.

Joan Sauter of Hampton Bays caught this 11 pound 8 ounce fluke in Shinnecock Bay which was weighed in at Three Aces Tackle Shop and will be mounted by Island Taxidermy. This large fluke was caught on squid and sand eel combination while trolling. Subscriber Club Photo.

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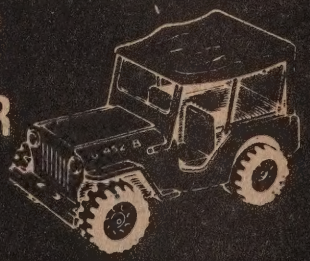

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WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station tells of weakfish between buoys 19 and 5 on shrimp jigs tipped with squid or clam, fish ranging between 5 and 6 pounds on outgoing, best in morning and evening hours. Blues are mixed in with the weaks with blues hitting on all baits and artificials thrown at them, running up to 3 pounds with an occasional 10 pounder. Fluke at buoys 28 and 29 on sand eels and spearing, averaging 2 pounds. A few kingfish and a lot of blue claws from the town dock. Sharpies Ed Mossman and Jim Horton on Sunday had 110 weaks and blues, so if they can, why can't you?

The charterboat **Friendship** reports bluefish all over the bay in the 3 to 4 pound class with some up to 8 pounds, hitting all baits and artificials. Don't fall in the water.

OAKDALE

Howie's Fishing Station reports that Charlie Eisenhardt hailed 35 weaks averaging 4 pounds taken at buoy 28 on shrimp chum on incoming, with the assistance of Pal Jim. In addition, fluke, weaks, and blues are still around, though very spotty.

CAPTREE

Capt. Bob Joseph of the **Captain Joseph Fleet** told us that the fluke fishing has been holding up well and it's been a good year of fluking all around. There's a good pick of fish through both tides in all the usual haunts from the Fire Island Inlet to the State Channel.

The **Captain Richie** reported that the fluke fishing was okay all week and it looks like a new run of fish may have moved in as the fishing has picked up a little. Fish have been hitting through both tides, and the trick is to be in a spot where the wind direction is creating a good drift. Fish are spread out from the Inlet to West Island. Squid strip combos with killies or spearing ar the hot baits.

Captain Neil of the **Lady Ann** reports that the fluking improved this week with bigger keepers and smaller shorts. The boat had 100 keepers on Friday, 51 on Saturday and 74 keepers on Sunday, with the Sunday pool fish going 6 pounds 5 ounces. Sea bass action remains good, as evidenced by Saturday's afternoon trip to the outer reef with 170 sea bass coming over the rail in 2½ hours. Nail Neil says that July 11th is open for charter, so call quick.

OAKBEACH

The Store reports rather poor fishing due to the equally poor weather during the past week and weekend. He has had reports, however, of bass, but no details and none were weighed in during the week. On Wednesday, Hays and Marty Gennsler had a good shot at weakfish just off the Lighthouse on white whiptails fished on the bottom on outgoing. Hays also reminds you that he has irresistable bass eels in his tanks.

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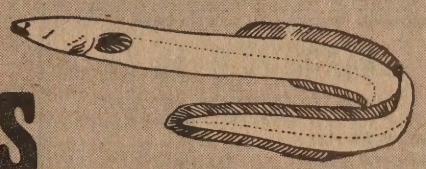

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The Long Island FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:
The person with license no. 667-KTV failed to call in by the Friday deadline so this week once again there is no winner of the Contest. Next week's winner will receive $50 instead of the usual $10 plus a fishing trip for two and a free NAFABCO Gimbal Rod Belt.

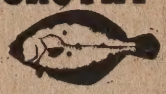
THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:
895-LHF

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

8 A M ★ DOROTHY B ★ 8 A M



PIER 6 PIER 6

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—BLUES—
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ALL ELECTRONICS
DELUXE ACCOMM.
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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 1

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 7

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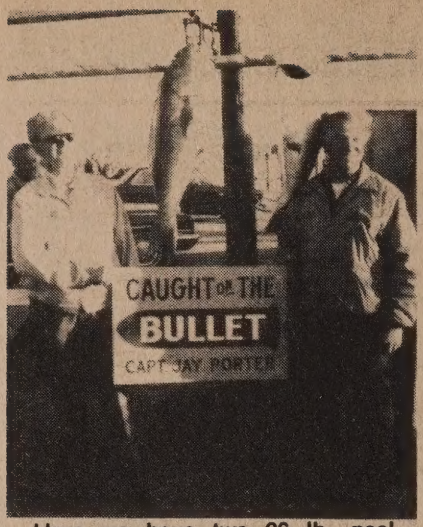

Here we have two 26 lb. pool winning tilefish caught by Paul Mocko and Vincent Katlanick aboard the "Bullet".

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports fluke and weakfish being caught in flurries in the Heckscher area, with improved catches expected as soon as weather warms up and settles down a bit.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports that Tony Araneo and pal Joe on the **Jenny** on Friday using sand eels and spearing got good catches of fluke at the Kismet Reef along with fair catches of blackfish which surprisingly enough hit sand eels. There are fluke at the inlet at Smith Beach and these are believed to be a new body of fish. Captain Julie on his "Rendover Island" reported 100 keeper fluke for a small charter on Saturday. Offshore, a few blues in 110 feet of water southeast of the inlet, fish in the 8 pound class. Blues continued to move in and out of the bay with early morning and evening hours best on Red Fins and Pencil Poppers. A few stripers on bunker at the West Bar for casters.

BABYLON

Hi-Hook Fishing Station reports lots of crabs off the Babylon Dock, blue claws that is. The wind and fog combined to put the fishing down and keep the fishermen away for a good part of the week and weekend, but the boats that did go out did come back with fair catches of keeper fluke.

Babylon Fishing Station says that despite the fog, he had boats out during the week and weekend and skiffs came back with fluke taken at the Crossroads where the State Channel and Babylon Cut meet. Also, where the State Channel and Snake Hill Channel meet was a producing spot. A 252 lb. Mako shark was taken by John Baumann in 140 feet of water southeast of the inlet.

Augie's Bait and Tackle called to report that Moises Cruz on the "Pat-E" brought in a 291½ pound thresher Shark and a 225 pound thresher taken on Friday, 160 degrees out of the inlet in 140 feet of water. The big guy took 3 hours to boat. Captain John Bilitski on the charterboat **Tried 9 true** in Saturday's fog bagged 6 blue shark for a party of four.

Frenchy De Veaux of Lindenhurst with 10 fluke up to 4 lbs. taken abaord the "Seahorse" out of Lindenhurst.

Jimmy Molnar caught this 9 lb. 15 oz. fluke at the Store dock on squid.

This is the book reviewed in the fishing columns of Dave Knickerbocker, Jerry Kenney, Frank Keating, Bill Wisner and Nelson Bryant.

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Pat Bile displays some of the stripers caught at Montauk on the outgoing tide. The bass weighed up to 20 pounds. Subscriber Club Photo.

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Lee Ann Kornienko with her first bass, a 16 pounder which was live lined at Rockaway Jetty aboard her Dad's boat, "Lee Gee". Her father also picked up two bass about the same size. Subscriber club photo.

LINDENHURST

Duke's Bait and Tackle reports that despite the weather putting the fishing and fisherman down a bit, fluke still abounds in Great South Bay and Fire Island Inlet, just outside Democratic Point. Lots of shorts, which must be thrown back. Stripers eased off, indicating that most of the migrating fish have past thru, but they are still being taken in the State Channel and around the bridges and along the surf by those putting in the time. Weaks are still active between the Lighthouse and the Coast Guard Station. Blue claw crabs are improving and snappers should be in within the next two weeks. Offshore Mako sharks are the big thing and it looks to be an excellent year for shark. Tony Pavone on "Piper II" took 210 lb. Mako. Frank Searls and Dad on the "Predator" took a 160 pound Mako fishing southeast of the inlet in 140 feet of water.

Captain Tom of the open boat **Sea Horse** continues to bang away with the fluke concentrating a lot of attention to the East West Channel, with the weekend being much improved over the weekday action. Sunday it was a six keeper fluke per man average and Saturday it was a 4 to 5 keeper fluke per man average. Lots of short fish mixed in and of course these were returned to the water.

Captain Bob Schaefer of the charterboat **Lazy Day II** had good fluking on Friday with fish up to 4 pounds. The weekend was on the poor side in Fire Island Inlet due to the weather. Fluking should improve with warmer weather. Bob still has some choice dates open.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports some shark and bluefish activity even on the foggy blowy weekend. Flounder can still be had off the Sore Thumb on bloodworms and blackfish are still gobbling fiddlers at the Kismet Reef. Weakfish can be tried for off the Copiague Beaches. Schoolie bass are being chummed and live lined at the bridges, while fluke are still taking sand eels and squid at drop offs and holes throughout the bay.

The **Bullet** reports that Saturday's tilefishing trip was very productive, with several hundred fish being taken. Several people had 10 or more tile. A spot in the Hudson Canyon 125 miles from the dock produced this catch.

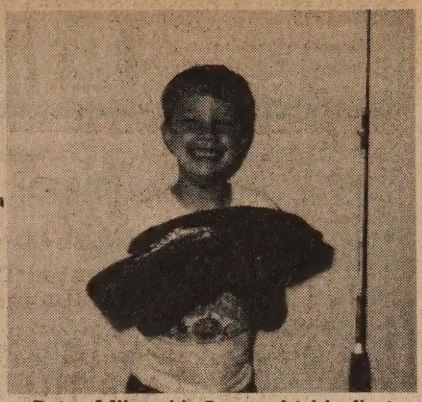
BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports some nice fluke taken this past week in Middle Bay, Baldwin Bay and in Reynolds Channel around buoy 19 on killies and squid. One of his skiffs came in with 10 big fluke over 22 inches.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser's Bait and Tackle tells us that Bob, Ed and Harry Marcel took 3 bass fishing on the "Molly Brown", using live bunker at Zach's Bay at the State Channel. The fish were 12½, 18½ and 28½ pounds, caught on Monday morning. Fluking is on the slow side but northwest of the Wantagh Drawbridge, fishing in the flats, is producing steadily on sand eels and spearing. Sloop

Dennis Rooney with some nice bass he caught on live bunker. The bass weighed 46, 38 and 24 lbs. Photo courtesy of the Store.



Peter Milewski, 5, caught his first fish (black) off Bayville Beach with his family. Subscriber Club Photo.

Point Lookout Island Park

Angler II

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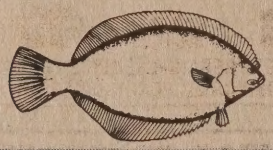
Channel, Haunts Creek and the Coast Guard Station are the best bets. Small blues and weaks have been taken just south of John Burns Park.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports 16 fluke taken by one angler on Thursday drifting between Ned's Creek and Fundy. Merrick Point has been producing but with a lot of shorts mixed in. Good results have been taken by boats anchoring and chumming up fluke in broad creek. Nine pound class weakfish are being taken along with schoolie bass for clam chummers at the bridges. Jimmy has heard of bass on bunker this week, but no verifications.



Joe and Marie Locurto caught 25 fluke up to 4 lbs. off Lloyd Point on sand eels and squid. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Tackle.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

On Saturday, Captain Dave Pigott had the For Tai Man Group out for fluke and sea bass aboard his boat **Lucky Strike III**. They fished the Jones Inlet area for fluke and took 80 fish of which better than half were keepers. They also had quite a good catch of sea bass. Sea bass ran to 1¼ pounds and took the same killie and squid bait as the fluke. The change of tide brought the best fishing but the catch was steady all day. A man from upstate Bob Cho was hi-hook with 9 fluke for his first time fishing.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports lots of fluke with five boats during the week bringing in over 20 nice keeper fluke. Productive areas are from High Flats Drain Bridge to Fundy, and from the bridge to Guy Lombardo's. Many were taken in the inlet up to 3 pounds (keepers, mind you) on killies, sand eels and squid, with incoming working best. Occasional sea bass are being taken. Some bass are being taken on bunker and also live eels and for chummers.

The Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that the "Norseman II" on Tuesday had the Bishop Family out south of Cholera for substantial catches of ten to fourteen pound bluefish. The rest of the fleet, reports Docmaster Bob Kay did a job on sea bass and ling and fluke over the weekend.

The **Starstream II** reports excellent sea bass catches despite the fog and ground swells that have been prevalent all week. The pool is always an outsized sea bass, black, or blue. The action is consistent, with a poor day 20 to 30 sea bass a man. A good day is about 50 fish per man. The fish are mixed sizes.

The Captain Al reports very good sea bass and blackfishing along with a sprinkling of porgies and ling. Thursday's nite bluefishing trip produced 53 choppers for 9 souls. Friday night and Saturday night the bluefishing was spotty.

The open boat **Captain Hall** of the Freeport Boatmen's Association tells us that there are move fluke in the ocean now, of better sizes. Average is 8 to 10 good keepers per man. There are a lot of fish also in the inlet and in the back channels. The percentage of keepers

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varies day by day and area by area. Dick reports lots of bunker in the bay.

Captain Spider Schmidt of the **Aloma II** reports fantastic fluking Friday, Saturday and Sunday in local back areas and also outside Jones Inlet, fish running 2 to 5 pounds, gobbling sand eels to the tune of 6 to 15 big keepers per man. Captain John on the **Aloma** has been fishing Seabright and the Ambrose Tower for sea bass and ling with roughly 50 fish per man. Captain Schmidt asks us to announce that over the July 4th weekend the **Aloma Fleet** will be FISHING, not taking people on sight seeing tours. Paul also informs us that the infamous referand Moon of recent Moonie Fame has been fishing on his 50 foot Hatteras in and around Freeport waters keeping everything that comes over the rail and specifically that means loads and loads of undersized, illegal fluke. The name of the boat is "New Hope." There is a hired Captain runnin this boat and comments have been made to the Moon and to this Captain, but they just keep taking these illegal fish and smiling. It is not known whether the conservation department has borded the New Hope.

We've received several calls from happy open boat fishermen fishing Freeport who took our advice and sampled the early morning fishermen's breakfasts at the **Poop Deck**. They said the meals really sent them on to the boats full and happy.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports fluking still good on the flats. Mike Latorraca and brother Bob and their 3 friends from New Jersey took 50 fluke between them using sand eels and squid. Due to the fog several boats fished right off the station and along the jetty where fluke were taken in good quantities. More striped bass are being taken along the West Jetty by bunker dunkers. Carl Smith took another one of 25½ pounds on Saturday. The Meadowbrook and Long Beach Bridges are still producing good quantities of blackfish as well as some sea bass. A few weaks have been taken by the fluke fishermen but no run as of yet.

The Marie III was sharking on Friday southeast of the inlet in 140 feet of water. Tony Salatico took a 194 lb. Mako while Jack Tennesen took an 83 pound blue shark plus a smaller one and a dusky. Two makos were dropped and no bluefish were run into at all. On Saturday and Sunday, Captain Andy's new Loran C put the boat over some productive wrecks for sea bass and fluke that filled the bags.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbrook reports fluke fishing still good in Jones and East Rockaway Inlets. Duck Point is also another good spot. About ⅔ of the fluke are keepers and are being taken on squid with either spearing or sand eels. Fog made trolling for striped bass tough over the weekend, but the bunker dunkers off Lido and Rockaway did well. Fish run from 12 to 18 pounds mostly.

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** reports fishing has been very good all week in the bay, Debs Inlet and off Riis Park, catches averaging 10 to 15 keeper fluke per man. The keeper ratio is roughly 50 percent. Ratios are better off Riis Park, with all baits being effective. The fish are in close to the beach and stray porgies are coming in. Good striper catches on bunker in the bays and at the bridges. Two more weeks and porgies will be available from the docks and marshes.

LONG BEACH

Tom at **Long Beach Sports Marina** reports pretty good fluke fishing at Duck Point. These are being taken on killies and sand eels and about ⅓ are throwbacks. Some of these fish go up to 4 pounds. Live bunker fishing at the Atlantic Beach Bridge is still good for striped bass most of which run close to 20 pounds.

Mark Ruiz, Steve Renner, Dave Ennis and Tom Hansen all of E. Northport caught 15 bass from 15 to 25 lbs. out of Sandy Hook on Lupo spoons and bunker abaord the Kim.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the **Kim** (Atlantic Beach Charter and Guide Boat Association) reports bass fishing excellent at Sandy Hook all during the week but it ended with the fog for the weekend, when very few boats got out. Those that did get out fished Atlantic and Long Beach and got zilch. The Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club Bass Tournament was won by angler Neil Meyer with an 18¾ pound bass. Monday thru Friday's action was a combination of Lupo plugs and spoons, bait and Almighty Squids.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Rod and Gun** reports lots of bunker bait at the North Channel Bridge and baitfishermen using this method are cleaning up on the bluefish. Porgy fishing has just started at the So. Channel Bridge mostly on worms. The Marina Parkway Bridge has blacks and fluke and the flke are also off Riis Park. Fluke catches come out about 50/50 keepers. Breezy Point and Fort Tilden has been good to the bunker dunkers for striped bass.

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Stella Maris reports striped bass being taken at the Breezy Point jetty and Romer Shoals on clam bellies and bunker. A few have been trolled. Norton Point has blues that are taking bunker bait. Blackfish is mostly on wrecks and at Manhattan Beach.

Salvo's Bait and Tackle reports that the weather fogged in the fishermen but the striped bass and blues are still there to be taken on the same methods as last week. The Sea Wall from 69th St. to the Coney Island Pier is very good for the fluke fishermen. Fish mostly high water in and out using spearing and squid. About 30 percent are keepers. Sand porgies invaded the Steeplechase and the incinerator piers. Worms are the best bait for these fish. Crabs are very abundant.

Peter Bacotti and party caught 11 bass from 6-15 lbs. plus 10 blues from 8-12 lbs. jigging bucktails by Hoffman Island aboard the Jonny K. II.

Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** tells us that the sea bass action is very good off Sea Bright, averaging a 5 gallon pail full of fish per man, with 80 fish an average count. Spotty blacks and porgies are mixed in. Some bluefish have been hitting sea bass on the way up, leaving anglers with a sea bass head for their trouble.

Tom on the **Pilot II** reports very good sea bass fishing on Saturday averaging 40 to 60 fish per man, going up to 1½ pounds. Tom is fishing the Sea Bright area. Wednesday saw very good blackfishing, with one angler taking 80 of these sluggers. The fish are plentiful and in a week or two add porgies to the list.

Captain Dom has been having very good sea bass action off Jersey, with a 5 gallon pail per man not unusual. Sunday was a little slow due to low visibility but there was still good action, with a sprinkle of porgies which should be strong within a week or so. Bluefish are chopping up the sea bass on their way to the surface so the trick is to catch the sea bass by the tail.

Captain Wreggie of the **Chief** had some fluke and sea bass on the weekend but did a super job during the week on Seabass. On Friday this 10 A.M. boat had a couple of hundred big ling up to 5 pounds. The **Chief** will start bluefishing July 2nd and 3rd at 7 P.M.

Captain Nick on the **Blue Sea II** reports very good fluking in the channels and off Riis Park, fish 2 to 6 pounds, 10 to 12 keepers per man all week long. Be sure

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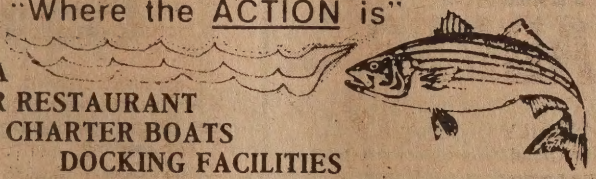

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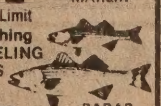

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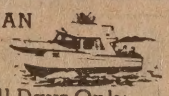

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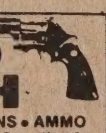

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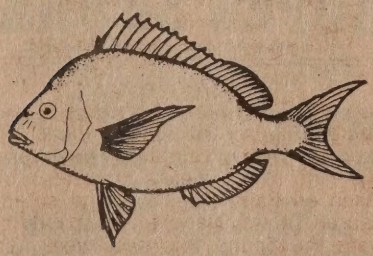

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Captain Walter of the **Flamingo II** reports extra good sea bass fishing and of good mixed sizes. Saturday saw his best day so far at Sea Bright. A new run came in for the weekend, of better size. Walter says this is the best sea bass fishing in years, 30 to 50 per man average, with better weather bound to produce better catches. Blacks up to 4½ pounds were mixed in on Saturday and fishing was good despite the fog. The **Flamingo II** will be mixing sea bass with their fluke fishing when ever the conditions are right.

Eddie Hadden, 12, caught this 8 lb. striper which was his first abaord the charterboat Chianti.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports the boats are having a steady but smaller pick at the Verranzano Bridge on the bass. Bunker boats harvesting their fish and an oil spill may account for this slow action. Blues are also slow on the trollers. Nortons Point, Great Kills Park have blues averaging 8 to 12 pounds. Annadale and Princess Bay have smaller fish of 2½ to 3 pounds. All these fish are being taken on bait. Fluke has been excellent at Great Kills Harbor by the Bug Light and buoy 4. There are very few throwbacks and fish average 2 to 2½ pounds. Drifting with squid, sand eels and killies are the bait. The surfishermen at Great Kills Park and Annadale are having a slow pick on the striped bass. It's bait during the day and lures at sunup and sundown. The blues at Great Kills Harbor has not been that good. The blue claw crabs have been fantastic in that area for both the potters and the netters. Many are of big size.

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

According to Ray at **Orient by the Sea Marina** the weather over the weekend put the damper on everything. Striped bass have been taken in Plum Gut on the usual pork rind and bucktail for those that were able to get out and fish. A few blacks were taken off Gardiner's Island.

GREENPORT

Captain Richie Jensen of the **Wilhelric** reports that on Saturday and Sunday the porgies really came in to Gardiner's Island. Catches are mixed of small, medium and large sized porgies and the catch consists of mostly the mediums. These are ¾ to 1¼ pounds. Some sea bass are also mixed with these fish. Pool fish is generally a black of from 4 to 6 pounds. The **Wilhelric** will now concentrate on the porgies.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports the **Wilhelric** and **Brand X** doing very well on sea bass and porgies and fluke, and that these are big fish. Seven stripers from 25 to 48 pounds fell to Joe Angovine on Sunday night in Plum Gut, drifting yellw bucktails with yellow pork rind on 6 foot leaders with a 12 ounce sinker. Stripers are hitting plugs off the Greenport Shores on the Sound side. Good weakfishing off Pipe's Cove on the ebb and Louie's Beach Shelter Island on the flood on squid and worms, all big fish.

Captain Dave Green of the charterboat **Pooka V** had fair fluking on Friday while on Sunday Dave had very good catches of porgies, blacks and sea bass, fishing Gardiner's Island.

SOUTHOLD

Dot at the **Southold Fishing Station** said there are medium sized porgies being taken at Jessups's on squid and clam. Weakfish have slowed at buoys 17 and 18. In the same area bluefish of 1 to 3 pounds have been taken on squid bait. Dot says buoys 17 and 18 also have blackfish being taken on squid, clams or fiddlers.

NEW SUFFOLK

Captain Marty's Fishing Station reports that mostly porgies are being taken right now. Catches are best south of buoy 25 on bloodworms or skimmers. All these are nice sized fish and catches can go from practically nothing to 350 fish. Some weaks have been taken at Rose's Grove and buoy 22 on squid and sand worms.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgies are pretty good at buoys 25 and 2 at Laurel. All these are caught on sand worms and catches go up to 80 and 100 fish. Some weaks have also been taken on Salty Dogs with no squid at Laurel. Tommy Nagel took 8 striped bass from the Sound this past week. They were all taken on a small sinking Rebel and ranged 10 to 12 pounds.

WADING RIVER

Wildwood Deli reports the blackfish caught over the weekend was small fish of 2 to 5 pounds that took fiddlers. A few flounders have also come from the beach by those using sand worms. George says the striped bass fishing has been very slow.

MILLER PLACE

Dick's Sporting Goods says the porgies are picking up pretty good, but blackfishing is on the decline. Sea bass

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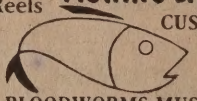
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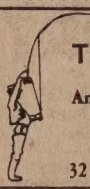
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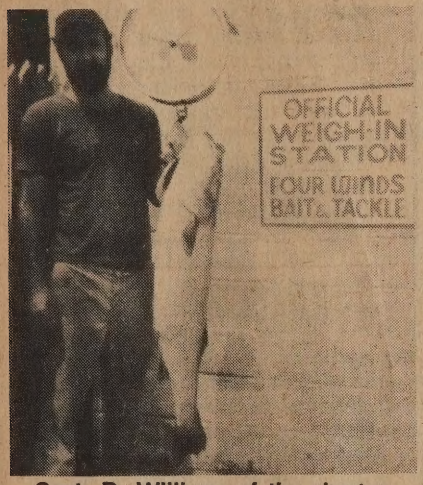
fishing is not too bad but worms are best. The surprising thing are the good catches of fluke that are being taken off the beaches. Most of these are keepers and take the usual sand eels, squid or worm. Blues of 1½ to 3 pounds have been taken on bait from the boats off the beaches. Hagerman Landing also saw an attack of these blues during the week. An occasional big blue will also suck in the bait.



Capt. D. Williams of the charter-boat Therapy caught this 36 lb. bass in Cold Spring on live bunker. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Tackle.

PORT JEFFERSON

Captain John Fischer said the **Betty W** and the **Janet C** had good results with the fluke during the week. On Friday Joe Zimmerman took a 9 pound fluke aboard the **Betty W**. Saturday saw Cliff Fenton and friends take 120 keeper fluke one of which went to 10 pounds. The **Janet C** as an open boat caught well and their pool fluke was 8 pounds. On Sunday the afternoon fishing fell off from the morning trip on the **Betty W**.

Caraftis Fishing Station reports excellent fluke fishing on Mt. Misery shoal and sometimes near the inlet. Good bluefishing on Friday and Saturday morning was had by jiggers at buoy 11. These three to three and a half pound fish are feeding on small bait. Cranes Neck also had these fish that were taken trolling umbrella rigs about a mile or so off the point. Striped bass fishing has been slow but Spencer Weisbroth of Beltair had a big surprise in store for himself. While blackfishing off the West Jetty for blackfish with green crabs a fifteen pound striped bass took his bait. After boating the fish Spencer called it for the day.

NORTHPORT

Mort at **Larkfield Sports Center** reports super fluke fishing at Crab Meadow Beach and also Makamah and Calahans Beach. Average catch can be 10 fish with better than half keepers. Compass adjuster Jens Jacobsen had 10 keepers while drifting spearing and squid in fifteen to 20 feet of water off Crab Meadow. His biggest fish came in at seven pounds. Weakfish were reported breaking water off Asharoken Beach but were not taking anything. Blackfishing is down and maybe on its way out.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Bait and Tackle reports Joe Fussaro of Huntington Station caught a 46½ pound striped bass on a trolled worm off Cold Spring Harbor. He had just this one and not many others were taken. Catches of weakfish at Marshall Field and Lloyd Point were had by both beach and boat fishermen. Boaters casting an Alee Eels or Tri-Fin Eels or small surface plugs have catches of 4 to 20 weaks in the four to seven pound range. Small blues and schoolie bass are also mixed in with these weaks. Striped bass in the 20's have been taken near Target Rock and the West Side of Huntington Bay using live bunker.

Captain Pete of the **Ever Ready** said fluke averaging 16 and 17 pounds were taken between buoy 13 and Eatons Neck. They used spearing and sea robin bellies to catch them. there were no throw backs.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle informs us that the best fishing action this past week has been for fluke. Fluke rigs with sand eels, squid, or mackerel strips are taking most of the fish. These fish are generally two to three pounds with a few over 6 with practically no throwbacks. Best best are Lloyd Point, Ashroken and Crab Meadow drifting the above baits. Big weaks and blues have been trolled off Eaton's Neck on wire line with white bucktails. A couple of weaks have gone to 12 pounds. Blacks and porgies are off.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports Shop says blues, blues and more blues. They are ranging in the area from the Glen Cove breakwater around to Peacock Point and are sticking close to shore. Your best bet is to have spinning gear in your boat and slowly troll from Maxwell's until you locate the school. If the fish surface you can use silver and white poppers. Snapper blues and blues to 8 and 9 pounds are also being trolled the same way and spin cast too when they rise.

PORT WASHINGTON

Morelands Bait and Tackle reports fluke to 4 pounds are being taken on shiners and squid both east and west of Mattinecock Point. Also at Mattinecock are weakfish that are being caught by casting on the top water. Blues in Hempstead Harbor have been taken on trolled tubes mostly. The striped bass, although they are slow pick, are being taken on bunker and worm.

CITY ISLAND

John's Bait and Tackle reports lots of fluke at the following points: Sand, Prospect or Mattinecock. Jack had one man that had 47 keeper fluke and threw back twice as many. He caught these on sand eel and spearing. He said the squid bait took practically nothing. A few weakfish of 4 to 5 pounds have been taken on Salty Dogs at Fort Slocum on the last of the incoming tide. Porgies are very few right now but there are lots of blacks at the rocky areas. There are lots of school bass at Harts Island being taken on worm. One angler took a 40 pound bass from there on a sandworm. A school of mackerel is still floating around in the are and occasional catches of them have been had.

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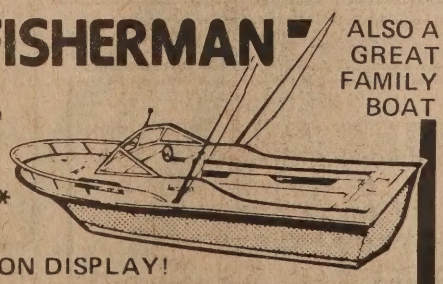
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FLUKE FISHING

(continued from page 9.)

mackerel is a large boston, it is possible to get three strip baits from each side, including the silvery-white belly cut that is thinner and has more flutter than the thick flesh of the striped sides.

In late August it is not unusual to find small "tinker" mackerel mixed in with the snappers. If you ever are lucky enough to catch any, save them—they're worth their weight in barrel swivels as a fluke bait. Rigged whole on a tandem hook rig, tinker mackerel are the piece la resistance (Big Mac) for doormat fluke in late August and September. They also may be frozen without losing their effectiveness because they are to be used intact without filleting. To prove how high I regard the tinker mackerel as a fluke bait, let me say this about that: last Ausust I was walking on the docks of the West Lake Fishing Lodge at Montauk one evening with my wife and we came across a young fellow snapper fishing under one of the lights. I looked in his bucket to see his catch, and my heart jumped in my throat when I saw about a half dozen tinker mackerel mixed in with the snappers. So I asked him "How much do you want for the mackerel?"

"Nothing," the kind lad replied.

"Aw, let me give you something for 'em," I said, not wishing to take advantage of a potential subscriber.

"No, I mean wouldn't sell them for nothing, 'cause I have to fill an order for ten mackerel for one of the charter boat captains."

To make a long story short a secretive captain whose name he wouldn't divulge (Charlie Nappi, you bum?) was paying the kid fifteen cents each for ten mackerel. So I started a bidding war, and reached a half-a-buck a tinker before it finally sunk in that Diogenes' search for an honest man may not have been in vain He wouldn't sell me the mackerel he had

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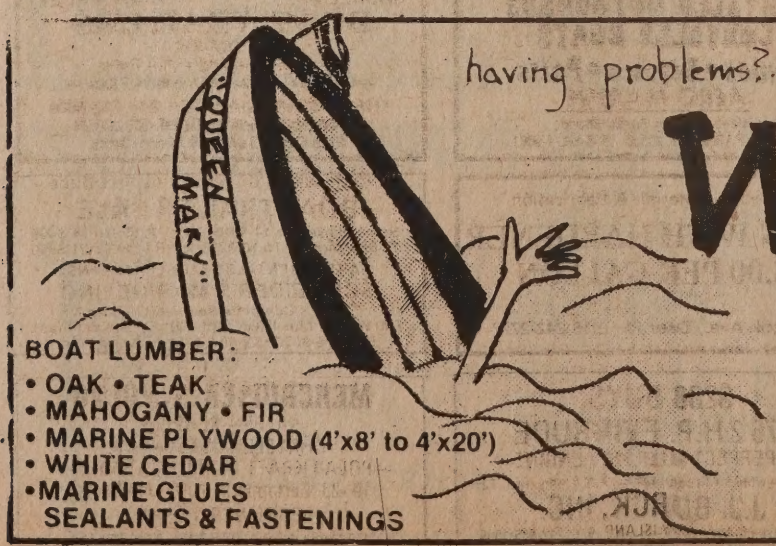

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FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS—Flounders are committing suicide on this widely used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "Meat Fisherman". Special design and construction keeps tangling of hooks at a minimum. Hand Made. Finest materials. 3 completely tied rigs for $3 which includes FREE instructions for tying your own. Send check or money order to P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpk. Merrick 11566.

FREE CATALOG—Expanded Do-It-Yourself mold section. Cast plastic or lead. 41 original soft plastic lures. 5 sizes. Shrimp: plus eels, worms, squid, etc. All supplies. Many specials. VIKING, 1306 North Road, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909.

NEW IMPROVED—Tandem Hook Fluke Rig/ Latest refinement of a "swinging hook" to this popular fluke killer rig allows you to adjust the tandem hooks to the length of your strip bait or sand eel. Keeps your bait perfectly straight and natural looking while it puts a hook where strip baits are normally bitten off by fluke. Send $3 for 3 prototype rigs and directions on how to tie your own to avoid paying this ridiculous price to: Scott Simons, 1428 Richland Blvd., Bay Shore, New York 11706.

CUSTOM BUILT RODS: 30 #IGFA Trolling—$59. 50# IGFA Trolling—$65. Aftco Roller Guides, Big Game Seats. Finest materials, Aluminum butts add $15. Spinning, surf, fly rods, at similar savings. ABADAK RODS, 36 Corsa Street, Dix Hills, (516) 242-3642.

FLUKE WEAKFISH KILLER RIG—Hi-Low Rig, A proven design that does a job on these two species. Combines already famous fluke killer rig with a high hook for tide-runner weaks. All hand tied with finest materials. Includes FREE instructions for making your own rigs. 3 rigs for $4. Send check or money order to P. Miller, 150 Babylon Turnpike, Merrick, NY 11566.

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1971 BLAZER 4 Wheel Drive, Power Steering, Power brakes, Diamond plate rear bumper, roof rod rack, AM-FM, 2 sets tires, Excellent condition. Buying pick-up. $3100 or best offer. Call (516) 757-9179 Eves.

JEEP—See Suffolk's Largest Selection at our new location. FREE this month—SOFT TOP on all CJ's. 10% Parts Discount to all LIF Card Holders. CARSON AND SCUDDER—AMC Jeep (516) HA 7-0270. 1220 E. Jericho Turnpike. Huntington. Corner Dear Park Avenue.

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1965 Jeep Wagoneer, 6 cyl., Standard shift. Four wheel drive. Warner Hubs, 600D Tires, Roof Rack, New Paint, Many new parts, Runs and looks like new. Asking $1275. Call (516) 354-9299 8 to 5 P.M. and ask for Pete.

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promised to someone else (rotten kid.)

BERGALLS: The bergall or cunner yeilds a poorly shaped strip bait that is short and stubby but never-the-less effective. But they only should be used when there is a lack of a more preferred bait available.

DOGFISH: The smooth dogfish, also known commonly as a sand shark, yeilds long strips of pure white meat that are extremely effective for fluke, particularly those in the doormat class. To prepare as a strip bait simply slice off the entire side of the fish, skin, and cut the flesh into strips about seven to nine inches long and approximately one inch wide tapering to a point. Rig on a tandem hook as previously described.

FISH SKINS: When fish such as the weakfish or bluefish are filleted and skinned, the skin of the fish usually has a small layer of meat intact, especially if you are a rotten filleter. Normally, these skins would be discarded, but I have found that they make excellent strip baits that flutter enticingly in the current that fluke just can't seem to resist. Don't bother removing the scales...just take the skins whole and cut into pennant shaped strip baits with a pair of scissors and freeze for future use.

WHOLE SQUID: Personally, I would use whole squid for fluke bait almost exclusively if not for two reasons: it is expensive, and the small "short" fluke will attack and mangle an eight or nine inch squid just as readily as a doormat. So unless there is a large percentage of big fluke in the area you are fishing, the use of whole squid for bait is economically impractical.

When rigged properly, a whole squid has several things going for it. It composes a large part of the fluke's diet, has a lot of smell and is easy for the angler to present in a natural manner.

The hook placement of the tandem hook rig on a whole squid is critical. The top hook is placed in the mantal between the "wings" through the plastic like backbone of the animal, **no more** than one-half inch from the pointy tip. The bottom or stinger hook is placed in the head between the eyes as shown in diagram 5. **Do Not** place this stinger hook in the bottom of the mantal where the head extends from. If you do, the fluke will just lop off the head without coming into contact with the hook, and you can easily go through a three-pound box ofsquid without taking a single fish. If you don't believe me, try it. When properly rigged on the tandem hook rig a whole squid should hang perfectly vertical when held up by the leader. Make certain that the top of the mantal doesn't fold or bend down - if it does, it will act like a propeller as the squid moves through the water as you drift and start spinning wildly, scaring the hell out of the fluke.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	6:15	6:36	7:05	7:28	7:00	7:20	7:57	8:10	10:27	10:27	9:50	10:04	6:08	6:29	6/24
FRI	7:03	7:19	7:49	8:09	7:48	8:01	8:39	8:48	11:05	10:52	10:36	10:48	6:53	7:14	6/25
SAT	7:47	7:58	8:32	8:50	8:29	8:38	9:21	9:26	11:33	11:20	11:20	11:30	7:38	7:57	6/26
SUN	8:28	8:37	9:12	9:31	9:10	9:15	10:02	10:06	11:55	11:56	—	12:02	8:22	8:39	6/27
MON	9:10	9:17	9:54	10:09	9:49	9:54	10:42	10:47	—	12:27	12:11	12:43	9:06	9:21	6/28
TUE	9:51	9:59	10:35	10:51	10:34	10:34	11:24	11:29	12:36	1:06	12:53	1:25	9:50	10:05	6/29
WED	10:38	10:44	11:18	11:33	11:20	11:21	—	12:09	1:18	1:50	1:36	2:09	10:35	10:50	6/30
THUR	11:26	11:32	—	12:05	—	12:09	12:15	12:57	2:03	2:34	2:22	2:53	11:21	11:38	7/1

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 08
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER BR.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

6/4	5:25	8:32
6/9	5:24	8:35
6/14	5:23	8:37
6/19	5:24	8:39
6/24	5:25	8:40

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
6/27	6/5	6/12	6/19

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	2:30	**9:05**	3:00	**9:30**
FRI.	3:15	**9:50**	3:45	**10:15**
SAT.	4:00	**10:40**	4:30	**11:05**
SUN.	4:50	**11:25**	5:20	**11:50**
MON.	5:35	—	6:05	**12:20**
TUES.	6:30	**12:45**	7:00	**1:20**
WED.	7:35	**1:50**	8:00	**2:15**
THURS.	8:30	**2:40**	8:50	**3:10**

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